



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2023





/E601.B3

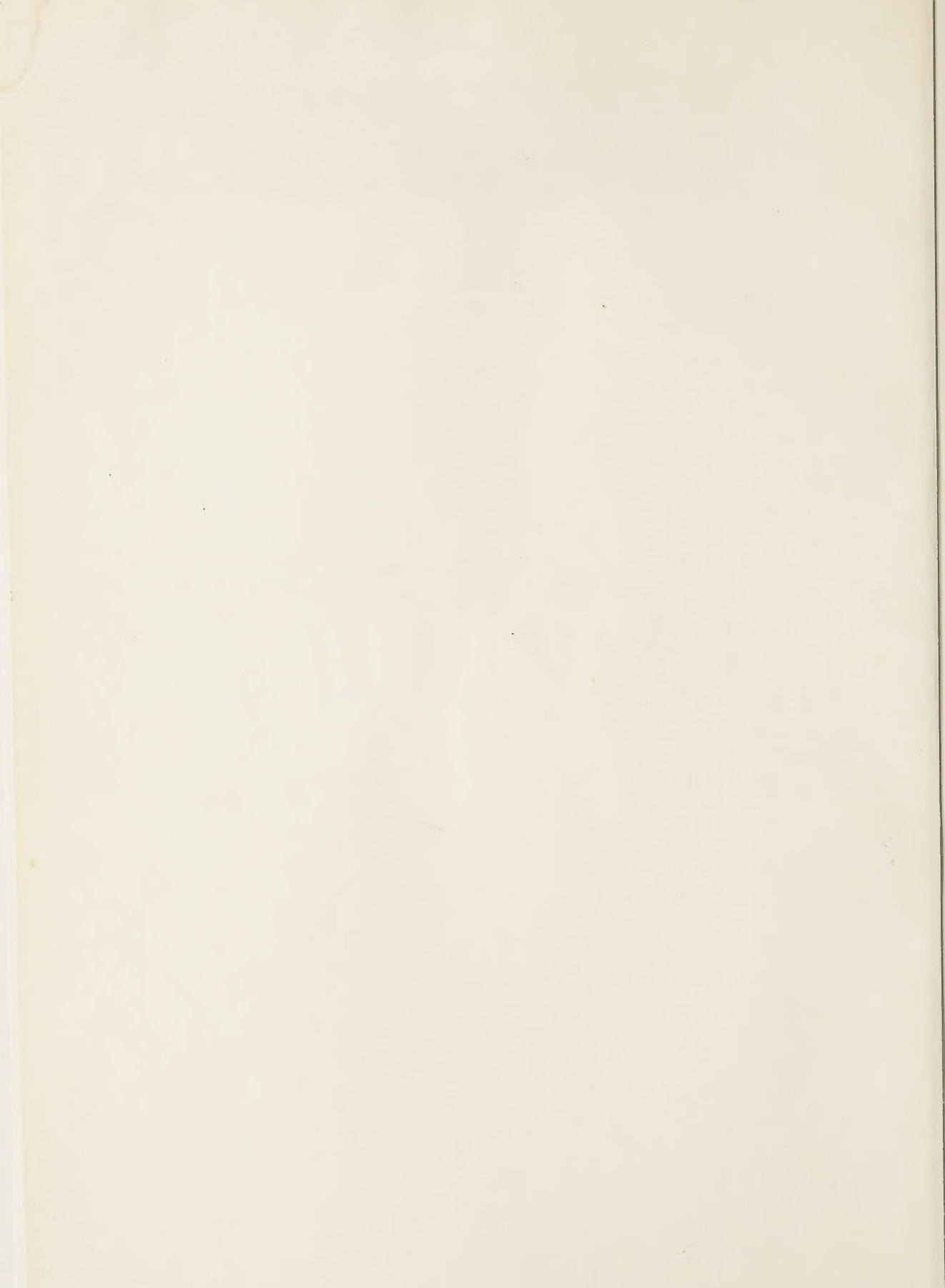
/144125#C2/

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 07224 8088

GC
973.74
IL5BH



The Civil War Letters
of Henry C. Bear

*A Soldier in the 116th Illinois
Volunteer Infantry*

Edited by
WAYNE C. TEMPLE, Ph.D.
Director
Department of Lincolniana
Lincoln Memorial University



Lincoln Memorial University Press
Harrogate, Tennessee
1961



7E3.744
160/-
B35
C2

For

Nelle Carpenter

Sylvia Renner Hadden

Ruth Painter Randall

S. B. NEWMAN PRINTING COMPANY
KNOXVILLE 2, TENNESSEE

146341

iii

LIBRARY
WESTERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY
CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS



Contents

ForewordVII

I. "And the War Came" 1

II. False Alarm 5

III. Orders for Vicksburg11

IV. Cruising down the River15

V. The Fight at Chickasaw Bluffs22

VI. Conquest of Arkansas Post 28

VII. "A Magnificent Humbug" 32

VIII. "They Are Bound to Come Under"39

IX. Waiting the War Out44

X. After the War49

Index53



Foreword

THE DISCOVERY OF THESE LETTERS cannot be credited to the editor; his attention was directed to them through the kindness of a good friend, Nelle Carpenter of the Urbana (Illinois) Free Library. She mentioned the fact that Mrs. Sylvia Renner Hadden possessed the papers of Henry Clay Bear, who was the grandfather of her late husband, Stanley B. Hadden. Mrs. Frank E. Richart, also of Urbana, owns one of Bear's letters and one written by his company commander, Captain William F. Brown. Joy McArty has a letter written by William Bear, brother of Henry, at Arkansas Post on January 12, 1863.

[These letters—in diary form—were written by Bear to his wife (Lucetta Jane) and not only describe military activities with a fine regard for details but also contain the sentiments, opinions, and philosophy of an optimist and a very keen observer. Although only a private in Company A of the 116th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Bear recorded carefully the military operations of his regiment as it struggled for control of the Mississippi River.

Since Bear wrote under battle conditions—in cramped quarters, by candle-light or campfire—his spelling and punctuation suffered. Comparison of these letters with a large collection of his manuscripts written after the war shows that he was a good speller, when he had time to look over his writing, and knew how to punctuate. For this reason, I have inserted punctuation where Bear clearly intended it to be. In addition, some capitalization and punctuation have been added to form sentences. Any other changes have been put in brackets, but all parentheses are those of Bear himself.]

Many times a librarian, with a file of bibliography in his or her head, can supply a much-needed reference which saves hours of research. Therefore, I wish to acknowledge the expert aid of Margaret A. Flint, assistant state historian of the Illinois State Historical Library. Muster rolls and census reports were consulted in the Illinois State Archives. Karl Kiedaisch, Jr., of the Keokuk (Iowa) Public Library, secured information about the Estes House Hospital where Bear was confined for two years. Fern Garrett, of the Decatur Public Library, identified former residents of Macon County, Illinois. Margaret Gleason, at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, gave me the necessary facts about Captain Jacob T. Foster of the First Wisconsin Artillery. Although not a librarian, Dr. Minnie Sue Buckingham, of Oakley, Illinois, deserves special recognition. She sent me specific information about the Church of the Brethren and the former inhabitants of Oakley. Books in the University of Illinois Library furnished me with many happy hours of research which was sandwiched in between my regular graduate study.

Professor Richard N. Current and the late Doctors J. G. Randall and Harry E. Pratt give me freely of their valuable time. All of them read my manuscript and suggested additions or corrections which were drawn from their vast storehouses of information concerning the Civil War. However, any errors or omissions must be laid at my doorstep.

Helen P. (Dotson) Ellison served as my secretary at Lincoln Memorial University and typed the manuscript; Garda Ann Turner, another assistant in the Lincoln Room, checked it for accuracy. My wife, Lois, encouraged me to complete the study and publish it during the Centennial of the Civil War, because eight years of research had gone into this little volume.

Harrogate, Tennessee
April 20, 1961

W. C. T.

1. "And the War Came"

HENRY CLAY BEAR became a diarist and even a poet in order to describe his many adventures to his wife whom he affectionately dubbed "Duck." He had willingly volunteered because he believed in the North's cause. As he wrote to his wife, he had "studied the cost and measured the way" before he had enlisted, and he intended "to stick it throug manfully."¹ Bear was somewhat of a philosopher with a deep interest in his surroundings and fellow men. If he could not think of a word which adequately expressed his feelings, he was very apt to make one up. On one such occasion (after the war) he described a saddle, which his horse had ruined while tied to a tree, as being "bumfusticated."²

Bear's prewar background was similar to the experiences of many other young men who had come to the Illinois prairies from the older states in the 1850's. He was born on December 7, 1838, at Mount Rock (Cumberland County), Pennsylvania, where the Bear family had been located for several generations. He was the eldest of the nine children—of whom only five survived childhood—born to David and Maria (Yoter) Bear. The Bears were of Swiss-German descent and had farmed in Cumberland County for many years, but in the fall of 1853 Henry moved with his parents to Macon County, Illinois. His father purchased thirty acres of land near Oakley and began the manufacture of brick. However, in 1857 he quit this business,³ and in the 1860 census he was listed as a farmer but lived at the same address.⁴

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Temple is a member of the Advisory Council of the U. S. Civil War Centennial Commission and a Captain in the Civil War Press Corps. He received the Lincoln Medallion from the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission for his contributions to that group.

David Bear probably moved his family to Oakley, Illinois, because of the favorable reports sent back by two of his brothers, Ephraim and Jacob, who had left Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, the previous

year (1852) and had settled in Macon County, Illinois.⁵ The rich black soil of central Illinois was a great attraction to thrifty farmers who struggled with worn-out or rocky soil. Then too, the new land could be purchased for a few dollars an acre.

Henry C. Bear was nearly fifteen when this move to Illinois occurred, and he continued to live with his parents and helped with the farming. But there was one thing that distinguished him from many of the younger men who moved west. He had attended the common school at Plainfield, Pennsylvania, and after he reached Illinois both he and his brothers and sisters continued their education.⁶ Education was something which he valued highly, and he read everything that was available. He perused the newspapers from front to back and kept up with politics and national events.⁷ This point is very evident from the letters which he wrote home during the Civil War. In one instance he read Lincoln's annual message of 1862 and then commented upon it to his wife. Many of his spelling errors were careless ones which he would have discovered if he had read his letters over again before sending them.

The month before Bear reached his twenty-first birthday he married, on November 17, 1859, Miss Lucetta Jane Likins. She was the daughter of John and Sarah (Cole) Likins⁸ and was born in Bucyrus, Ohio, on December 31, 1842.⁹ The Likinses had come to Oakley in 1858,¹⁰ and from the census report of 1860 it would appear that the Bears and Likinses were neighbors since the census taker listed the two families one after the other.¹¹

After Bear married he continued to farm near Oakley, probably renting a small farm. The records show that by 1860 he owned \$200 worth of personal property but no land.¹² Their first-born was a daughter, Minerva May, who died in 1861 at the age of eleven months.¹³ This was a great blow to the young couple, but they did not suffer alone. In that same year the whole country was ripped in two



COURTESY SYLVIA R. HADDEN

This tintype of Henry Clay Bear was taken in 1862, soon after he enlisted in Co. A, 116th Ill. Vol. Inf. at Decatur. He was then 23, was 5' 9½" tall, had dark hair, gray eyes and a dark complexion.

by the firing upon Fort Sumter and the further secession of Southern states. The Union was at stake and Bear had a big personal decision to make: should he stay with his young wife or join the colors?

For more than a year after the Fort Sumter incident Bear remained on his farm. Then, in July of 1862, Congress passed an act giving the president power to call the militia into Federal service for nine months. Along with this unsatisfactory measure there was an appeal for volunteers. The North needed troops quickly, and volunteer regiments seemed the best solution. Bear ardently supported Lincoln's policies. From the time that he was old enough to vote he had been a Republican and also an abolitionist.¹⁴

And when Macon County decided to raise a regiment in response to the call for troops, he enlisted on August 9, 1862, in Company A of this new three-year regiment which became the 116th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.¹⁵ He was twenty-three years old at the time of his enlistment, and his brother, William (three years younger), had already signed up in this same company three days before.¹⁶

By August 13, 1862, four volunteer companies had been organized in Macon County,¹⁷ and two days later the companies started to go into camp at the fair grounds near Decatur.¹⁸ This encampment became known as Camp Macon and soon bustled with activity. Within a few days after the troops moved into Camp Macon, Nathan W. Tupper—a prominent lawyer of Decatur—was “spoken of favorably for the Colonelcy of the Macon county regiment.”¹⁹ But Tupper opposed this popular movement for his election because his brother, Lt. Col. Ansel Tupper, had been killed at Shiloh on April 6, 1862, while leading the 41st Illinois Regiment, and Nathan Tupper felt that he should stay and support his deceased brother’s family.²⁰ However, when the regimental election was held on August 22, he was chosen colonel together with James P. Boyd as lieutenant colonel and Anderson Froman as major.²¹

The 116th carried on routine army duties until it was mustered into Federal service at Camp Macon on September 30, 1862. At this time the regiment numbered 952 officers and men,²² but it still was not up to full strength. It needed ten rifle companies, lettered from A to K (omitting J as is the army’s practice in order to avoid confusing it with I). Gradually the regiment filled its ranks from Macon County; however, companies F and H contained men from McLean, Christian, and Shelby counties.²³ With its full complement, the 116th was reported as “awaiting orders” on October 3,²⁴ and the following day it was armed and ready for service.²⁵

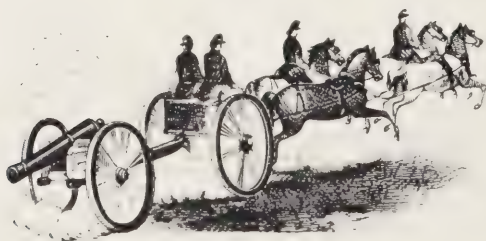
Until the regiment received its orders, the men continued to train at Camp Macon where the volunteers probably grew impatient and eager for battle, but within the year they would get their fill of marching, countermarching, and bloody combat. When at last their orders came, they discovered that they were bound for Memphis, Tennessee, to join the Army of the Tennessee commanded by General U. S. Grant. On November 8, 1862, the 116th left Decatur on the Illinois Central Railroad for the front. This regiment now numbered 980 officers and men²⁶ who were assigned to “thirty-six common box cars” for the first leg of their trip—to Cairo, Illinois.²⁷

The following day (November 9) they reached Cairo²⁸ and left that same evening on the steamer *Tigress* for Memphis.²⁹ This journey down the Mississippi River took two more days, and the 116th disembarked at Memphis on November 11.³⁰ The war was now pressing closer to these soldiers from Illinois, and it was to be two and one-half years before they would return to their homes—the remaining veterans who had escaped shot, shell, and disease. Decatur and Macon County meanwhile did not forget their boys. “The Sick and Wounded Soldiers’ Aid Society of Decatur” was organized and many hospital and sanitary supplies, as well as clothing, were sent to the 116th.³¹ These comforting gifts greatly aided the soldiers, but heartache and hardships troubled the wives and mothers left behind. Henry C. Bear’s wife, known by her middle name, Jane, lived part of the time with her own parents and part of the time with the Bears.³² The diaries and letters which Henry sent home were the only contact that she had with him, and she must have waited for them with the same eagerness which Henry displayed at the traditional “Mail Call.”

REFERENCES

CHAPTER I

1. Dec. 13, 1862.
2. Henry C. Bear to Edward S. Obenchain, Compromise Twp., Champaign Co., Ill., June 19, 1870. ALS owned by Mrs. Sylvia Renner Hadden, Urbana, Ill. Hereafter cited as Hadden Papers.
3. *Hist. of Champaign Co., Ill.* (Philadelphia, 1878), 167; *Portrait and Biographical Album of Champaign Co., Ill.* (Chicago, 1887), 694.
4. Illinois Census of 1860, Macon Co., XXV, 916. Illinois State Archives, Springfield.
5. *Portrait and Biographical Record of Macon Co., Ill.* (Chicago, 1893), 426.
6. J. R. Stewart, ed., *A Standard History of Champaign Co., Ill.* (Chicago, 1918), II, 732.
7. Interview with Mrs. Sylvia R. Hadden, Urbana, Ill., May 19, 1952. Mrs. Hadden knew Bear very well.
8. Later it was sometimes spelled "Likens."
9. *Port. and Biog. Album Champaign Co.*, 694.
10. *Port. and Biog. Record Macon Co.*, 463-464.
11. Illinois Census of 1860, Macon Co., XXV, 916.
12. *Ibid.*
13. *Port. and Biog. Album Champaign Co.*, 694.
14. *Ibid.*, 695; Stewart, ed., *Hist. of Champaign Co.*, II, 734.
15. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Illinois* (Springfield, 1900-1902), VI, 250.
16. *Ibid.*
17. *Chicago Daily Tribune*, Aug. 13, 1862.
18. William E. Nelson, ed., *City of Decatur and Macon Co., Ill.* (Chicago, 1910), I, 155.
19. *Illinois State Journal* (Springfield), Aug. 23, 1862.
20. Isaac Henry Clay Royse, *Hist. 115th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry* (Terre Haute, 1900), 13. Instead of one regiment, Macon Co. sponsored two: the 115th and the 116th.
21. *Illinois State Journal*, Aug. 26, 1862.
22. *Report Adj. Gen. State of Ill.*, I, 153.
23. *Ibid.*, VI, 269.
24. *Illinois State Journal*, Oct. 3, 1862.
25. *Ibid.*, Oct. 4, 1862.
26. *Report Adj. Gen. State of Ill.*, VI, 269.
27. N. M. Baker, "The Flag of Company C," Jane Martin Johns, *Personal Recollections of Early Decatur* (Decatur, 1912), 202. Baker was chaplain of the 116th Ill.
28. Nelson, ed., *City of Decatur*, I, 155.
29. See Bear's letter of Apr. 24, 1863.
30. First page of Bear's Diary No. 1 not reproduced.
31. Johns, *Personal Recollections*, 157-159, 210, and *passim*.
32. Stewart, ed., *Hist. of Champaign Co.*, II, 733.



II. False Alarm

UPON THEIR ARRIVAL at Memphis on November 11, 1862, the 116th Illinois went into camp and did nothing until November 26.¹ On that day they left their bivouac and started on a march into Mississippi to join General Grant. Since the 116th had been assigned to General Sherman, it was placed in the First Brigade, Second Division of the Thirteenth Army Corps. Their division marched down to Holly Springs, Mississippi, then on to the Tallahatchie River, and stopped at Abbeville. After staying there a few days the Second Division was ordered back to Memphis. Officers and men broke camp quickly on December 9 and got back to Memphis on the 13th.² This long painful march had come to nothing; their advance had been merely a patrol action to feel out the enemy. Naturally, Bear was disgusted and wrote that "there was not a Shot fired at us yet and dont expect there will be."³ But there was good reason to call the Second Division back: a big operation was being planned against Vicksburg, and it was needed to perform an important mission in General Sherman's corps.

[Memphis, Tennessee]*
November the 25 [1862]

My Dear Jane

Another day is past and the brick house stands yet but a great many houses and stables had to suffer last night. Our camp is out a little way from town. 300 yds

from camp there was two buildings burnt last night—our stable with two horses and a cow. There was fires burning all over town last [night.]

John Rogers⁵ will stay here in the hospite. The doctor says he is not able to march with us. I hear that the Cololnel⁶ says we have to unpack our coats and take them with us. They say we will Cramp⁷ enough of wagons to carry the extra load. They have taken in quite a number of wagons allready. We are all in high spirits. You my little woman must not fret about me to[o] much for I am bound to go through allright. Good by my little wife. We will all soon be home again.

H. C. Bear

DIARY NUMBER ONE

A Camp near Abb[e]ville
state of Mississippi
Dec. 7, 1862

My Dear and affectionate wife,

I once more will try to let you know that I am in the land amongst the living. I have taken a very bad cold which annoys me considerable. Standing out in the rain and snow storm [as] we did day before yesterday is enough to give an ox a bad cold. Yesterday and this morning it froze tollerable hard. We are going to stay here till we eat every thing up we can get from the sesesh around here then we will go farther.

This is a nice clear sunday morning. We, that is our whole Company, was out on picket yesterday. We had a good time. We killed a couple of hogs and confiscated several bush[els] of sweet potatoes.

The nigers says the reble army fled in an awful hurry from the breast works when they found out we ware so near them. They had a large force. They are now on full retreat. The news came in that Grant had captured 6,000 of [Sterling] Prices force about forty miles from here. We soldiers dont know any thing that is going on in any other Department. We dont get any news. We dont know much that is going on in this department. You up home talk of the South starving. It is not the case though. They have but very little salt and coffee but plenty of hogs and sweet potatoes, plenty of sugar and molasses and some corn, some wheat and if we leave them have the slaves they allways will have plenty, but when the first of January comes the slaves will be like the Duchmans flea: when they think they have them they wont be there.⁸ I never thought I could relish a chunk of cold corn bread like I did last night. It was deliscious sure. We have not been on full rations for several days but the teems have arrived and we will get our hard crackers. We breakfasted on sweet potatoes, coffee and fresh pork this morning.

My little woman, I intend to fill this book up with things that take place, that is evry day occurances. I then intend to send it to you in an envelope as a letter.

The Captain, Brown,⁹ was out cramping to day. He brought in three quarters of a barell of sugar. We, that is our Company, will go out forageing tomorrow. We intend to take four or five wagons with us. I will tell you tomorrow evening how we make out, so good night my duck.

Monday morning [December] the 8th
[1862]

We will not get to go a forageing this morning as we supposed we would. We will have to go on Skirmish drill in half an hour. I Still have a bad Cold. It was

very cold last night so that I did not sleep very well. It frose ice half an inch thick. It is warm through the day and Cold at night. Yesterday was my birthday. The boys cuffed me around Considerably. I have not heard from John¹⁰ for some time.

Two O'clock, P. M.

The Colonel give our first Lieut¹¹ fits to day after drill about (Kate). She goes in mens clothes. She has been with the Regt ever since we left Memphis. She used to be an occupant of the Brick. There is a few in our Company that would like to have such rips as her in camp, and on account of them our lieutenant was talked to as was some of the rest. You could hardly tell her from a man. I did not notice her till in camp on [the] Tallahachee and then I would not [have] if some one had not showed her to me. I could not find out why John [B. Purdew] was reprimanded without it was because she was out on picket when he was in command of the Company.

Tuesday [December 9, 1862] ten O'Clock

We are ordered back to Memphis to start at 12 o clock. It is all bustle and hurry in camp now. I suppose most of the force will leave for Memphis. I feel some better with my cold this morning.

Wednesday morning [December] the 10
[1862]

We marched back to the Tallahachee river yesterday. We have orders to start this morning at 7 O' Ck. toward Memphis. We are to make it in three days. I am not very well this morning. I am reported sick this morning.

Two hours later

I am now setting along the road about a mile from where we encamped. I got part of my load hauled. [George] Wilson,¹² [George Alexander] Jones¹³ and I went on a head. The whole army is halted in consequence of two Regts taking the wrong road, but now the bugle sounds forward and I must go.

12 O'C.

I just five minutes ago passed by an ambulance that was labeled Small Pox. I read it and then looked in and seen a man of the (55 Regt) just broke out with the Small Pox. You better believe I went away quick. I am still ahead of our Regt. We have come about 8 ms. We are within 12 miles of Holl[y] Springs. There is several cases of the Small Pox in this Division. When we get to Memphis they are going to vaccinate all that is not vaccinated. I stood marching this morning very well.

7 O'Clock Evening

We did not go to holly Springs. We took another road and encamped on a stream called pigeon roost, 19 ms from Tallahachee.

6 O' Clock, A. M. Thursday [December]
the 11th [1862]

We are to march at 9 O Clock and go
15 ms.

5 O' Clo[ck] Evening

We have marched the 15 miles. We are encamped on a stream called Cold water. I stood marching very well excepting my left foot got sore.

Friday December the 12, [1862]
5 O Clock A. M.

We will not start till ten O clock. We are within 22 ms of Memphis. We will hav today and tomorrow to¹⁴ make it in. A great many of the Boys have bad colds. George Wilson¹⁵ took morphine yesterday morning and it came near killing him. He could not walk to the ambulance. He is a little better now. I am writing by the light of the fire. It gives poor light so I will quit. All the boys from our neighborhood stands marching well. I thought Da[n] Miller¹⁶ would get home sick but he dont. He gets along as well as any of us. He is as hardy as a buck. Dan Bowen¹⁷ is fat and harty. Bill Hickman¹⁸ is in our mess and is more Develish than ever.

A lead pencil is a poor thing to write with but you must try and figer it out.

Eight O'Clock, P. M.

We are encamped for the night on what is called Clear lake, six miles from Memphis. We came Sixteen ms today. We all stood it well excepting our feet. This is the first time my feet swelled or got sore. It rained today occasionally. They say we will stay in the camp till we go on board a boat to some point on the river. I'll bet I will send my overcoat home when I get to town. I left it on the road, it was picked up and I got it again. I hope we will get the mail in the morning. You must write often for it does one good to hear from home. You dont know how we long to hear from home. When you write tell evry thing that takes place. Be sure to write often. The boys are full of life. Dan Bowen¹⁹ and Dan Miller²⁰ is just now scuffeling in the ten[t] at my feet. I must stop writing for I am setting on Georg[e] Wilsons²¹ bed and he wants to go to bead, so good night.

Dec. the 13 [1862] A. M. Saturday

It is raining this morning. We just finished our breakfast. I had to cough considerable last night.

Dec. 13th [1862] Saturday
2 O'Clock P. M.
Camp at Memphis

We have arrived here at last. We had a hard march this morning. I never was so near give out as when we arrived in camp today and so was all the rest. I carried all my load. It rained most of the time. The roads was slipery. We certainly had a hot march.

But our sorrow is all forgotten. Our Company, as did all the rest, drawed a bucket full of Whiskey and each mess²² got a quart, and it revived us up sure. It was the first we drawed. And it made me feel tipsy sure as it did some of the rest. You know it takes but little to make me feel funny. We have a nice camp here, within two hundred yards of our

old camping ground. I do not know how long we will stay here. There is more troops here now, a great deal [more,] than when we started on this march.

I have not heard from John²³ since we left Tallahatchee. David St[a]pp²⁴ came from Holly Springs to Tallahatchee and he saw him there. He was not fit to stand marching then. He would of like[d] to come along but had to stay at the Hospital there. John give out when we ware near Holly Springs and was taken there. Balch²⁵ staid here when we started on this march but John and some of the rest that was under the weather would not.

I have not seen Balch since we arrived. John and Father Wilson²⁶ will soon be discharged. I think Wilson could get one if he would take it. I suppose he will now. We all hope the war will soon be over. I am not home sick by a great ways but I would not care if the war would end tomorrow. One does not know how sweet home is till he goes through the roughs of a Soldiers life. You must not think I am despondent for I aint, for I would not take a discharge if one was give to me.

I studied the cost and measured the way before I enlisted and I intend to stick it throug manfully. You must try and bear your lot Heroically for this war cant certainly last long. I hate marching above all things. I hope the next trip we take will be on board a steam Boat. I am going to send my Gum blanket and Overcoat home sure for they are too heavy to cary on a march.

Two hours later

I have just told you we ware having a good time Over our whiskey But O! Sweet time nothing compared to receiving three letters at once from you. You ought to have been here to see how eager we was to get our letters when the Captain brought our letters to Camp. Some of the boys got as high as twelve letters. It has been along time since we received any mail. This Regt got about two bushel of

letters. The Captain got his arms full for this Company.

I received your three letters; the dates are Nov 26, Nov 30 and Dec the 3[rd.] We still have the same guns. There is but little talk when we will be paid off. I still have a \$5.00 greenback and a quarter in silver. I am surely glad and nothing pleases me better than to hear that you and the rest gets along in peace.²⁷ It would be hard to hear that you all could not live in without quarreling. If you ever get in a quarrel think of me and quit.

You see the edges of this book is colored. It is colored by my swet. When we stoped here there was not a dry sti[t]ch on my shirt. I had it in my shirt pocket and it was perfectly wet when I took it out.

You must be cheerful for I will take good care of my self sure. I am glad to hear that Mother is a little better but sorry to hear that William Morris²⁸ is poorly. Tell Ross²⁹ I would like to be up there to take a hunt with him. I believe I could beat him killing a turkey.³⁰ You can tell him he would have give out if he had to march with as big a load as we had to. Tell him to be sure to keep his gun clean for I will be home before long.

Sunday morning [December] the 14
[1862]

The Sergeant came to me just as I was going to bed last night and told me I had to go on guard. I did not like to do it but had to. My shirt was not dry this morning yet from the swet yesterday. I took more cold, had to be reported sick. The doctor gave me two blue mass pills.³¹ I would not take them I made hoarhound sure.

[Memphis, Tennessee, December 15,
1862]

This morning I feel a good bit better now which is about noon. At Camp near Abb[e]ville³² is where I commenced writing this letter dated Dec the 7. I tell you this so as to tell wher to commence reading this letter. I thought when I

commenced this letter I would fill the front part up with some thing else.³³

Tell Ross ³⁴ if he wants to marry and wants to get a good looking wife never to go South for I have not seen a good looking girl since I have landed in dixie. There may be some but I have not seen them. Once in a while we see some of the sesesh boys. They always look sneaking. On our march every house we Stopped at they wanted to be protected because they said they ware widows. There was a good many white flags stuck up and two of the Stars and Stripes. You better believe we gave them three good Cheers. We hear since we come back to Memphis that our Regt was all cut up. That it was so reported in a Chicago paper. What a lie. There was not a Shot fired at us yet and dont expect there will be.

I suppose if you have heard the Regt are all killed but ten men as was reported, you was considerable troubled. What lies are gotten up and such unnatural lies too. I hear to[o] that we are most starved and hat to sleep with only our blanket to cover us, which is not so. We fare as well as soldiers generally could expect. Some times we run short but only for a while, then we have plenty. Bill³⁵ and I sleep together. We each have a blanket, also a gum one to sleep on and³⁶ two to cover over and our two overcoats yet. It is not cold here like up ther. I can stand it with one gum and one wollen blanket when two sleep together. I suffer more carrying so much load than I do with the cold. What will you think when I tell you I have not had my pants off since I took them off when you and I slept together last. I changed shirts once and done my own washing. I got them tole[r]able clean for a raw hand. I give the Captains Niger one of my check shirts on the March and Charley Rundles,³⁷ my shoes. I would not care if I had a good pair of boots. Mine run crooked on the march but is good otherways. I notice that my lead pencil writing will be hard to read in consequence of it rubing out. Mayb[e] you can make it out. What I write to you Duck is the same as writing

to Father and Mother. You should allway[s] show it to them. It will save sending two letters and answer the same purpose.

Tell Uncle Ephrim³⁸ that I am in for tetotal Subjugation rather than Compromise with the rebles. I would rather see the whole South peopled with nigers rather than to end the war Dishonorable to the government of the United States. I would like to be home but not till the last dog lays down his gun, which they soon will have to do I think.

You may tell evry man of Doubtful Loyalty for me, up ther in the north, that he is meaner than any son of a bitch in hell. I would rather shoot one of them a great [d]eal than one living here. There is no comparison between the two. There may be some excuse for the one but not for the other. One could allways tell them by there finding fault with the President or with the government some way and thats just the way we tell them here. There is some Ohio regt here. May be there is some that is acquainted with the Hills.³⁹ I will try to find out and I will let you know.

Tell John⁴⁰ I will write to him tollerable soon. Tell him to write to me whether I write or not. He has got a better place and chance to write than I have. It is no fun to set humped up in our little low tents writing sure but I am surely anxious to⁴¹ get letters from home. So whether I write or not, write to me. I suppose you would like to get this letter, Duck, for it is a kind of history of our march; so with this I will end.

I Remain as ever your true and affectionate husband

Henry C. Bear

[P. S.] I was glad to get those stamps. I was plume out and they are hard to get sure. I will end by asking you to give my love and best respects to all the folks.

Your Hen

[P. P. S.] I will tear the Back off this book before I put it in an envelope.

REFERENCES CHAPTER II

1. From first page of Bear's Diary No. 1, not reproduced.
2. See various diary entries below.
3. Entry of Dec. 15, 1862.
4. Evidently this is the last page of a longer letter; if it were the first page, Bear would certainly have put a complete heading on it as he usually did. The day following this letter, the 116th left Memphis and marched into Mississippi.
5. John W. Rogers of Macon Co., private in Company A; killed near Kingston, N. C., Mar. 8, 1865.
6. Nathan W. Tupper of Decatur, colonel of the 116th; died at home in Decatur, Mar. 10, 1864.
7. Slang term meaning to secure something for use. The army today refers to these tactics as "scrounging" or "midnight requisitioning."
8. Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation Sept. 22, 1862, but it was to free the slaves in rebellious states on Jan. 1, 1863.
9. W. F. Brown of Decatur, captain of Company A; resigned Apr. 20, 1863.
10. John M. Bear of Decatur, sergeant of Company B; sick at Nashville, Tenn. when the 116th was mustered out. He was ill most of the time.
11. John B. Purdew of Decatur, 1st lieut. of Company A; died Mar. 27, 1863.
12. George Wilson of Macon Co., priv. in Company A; sick and absent at mustering out of the regiment.
13. George Alexander Jones of Piatt Co., priv. in Company A; died at Yazoo Bottom, Miss., Dec. 31, 1862.
14. The word "to" is repeated.
15. See note 12 above.
16. Daniel Miller of Macon Co., priv. in Company A; died at Young's Point, La., Feb. 28, 1863.
17. Daniel Bowen of Oakley, priv. in Company A; mustered out with the regiment on June 7, 1865.
18. William Hickman of Decatur, priv. in Company A; mustered out as corporal with regiment on June 7, 1865.
19. See note 17 above.
20. See note 16 above.
21. See note 12 above.
22. There were sixteen men to a mess. See entry for Dec. 16, 1862.
23. See note 10 above.
24. David W. Stapp of Macon Co., priv. in Company A; died at Lawson Hospital, May 5, 1863.
25. Alexander H. Balch of Oakley, priv. in Company A; died at Van Buren Hospital, June 1, 1863.
26. See note 12 above.
27. Bear's wife was staying with her own family and also at times with his parents.
28. William Morris was Bear's brother-in-law; he married Lucinda M. Likins and lived in Moultrie Co., Ill.
29. Joseph Ross Likins, brother-in-law of Bear. At this time he was fifteen and farming at Oakley.
30. Bear loved to fish and hunt. He wrote after the war: "I have over two bb[1]s of powder and over ten of shot. Cant I shoot?" Bear to Ed. S. Obenchain, Compromise Twp., Ill. Mar 3, 1871. ALS Hadden Papers.
31. Blue mass pills are formed by rubbing mercury with other substances until it forms a mass. They are generally given for liver ailments.
32. Abbeville, Miss.
33. Bear left several pages blank in the beginning of his diary and then did not fill them all up with notings as he had expected to do. The first page tells only where he camped, and his last entry of this diary was put in the first section of the book to save paper.
34. See note 29 above.
35. William Bear of Oakley, priv. in Company A; died at Young's Point, La., Mar. 5, 1863. He was the younger brother of Henry C. Bear.
36. The word "and" is repeated.
37. Charles W. Rundle of Oakley, priv. in Company A; mustered out with the regiment June 7, 1865.
38. Ephraim Bear of Decatur, uncle of Henry C. Bear.
39. Bear's wife was from Ohio and the Hills were evidently neighbors of the Likinses back in Ohio.
40. John Likins of Oakley, father-in-law of Henry C. Bear.
41. The word "to" is repeated.

III. Orders for Vicksburg

AFTER THE MEN of the 116th Illinois Regiment returned to Memphis, they went into camp and rested from their tiresome march into Mississippi. But their rest was soon to be terminated by an assault upon the fortifications north of Vicksburg. General Sherman, having returned to Memphis on December 12, 1862, was busy collecting the elements of his Thirteenth Army Corps for the Vicksburg campaign. General Andrew J. Smith's First Division and General George W. Morgan's Third Division were already at Memphis, and General Morgan L. Smith's Second Division, which included the 116th Illinois, arrived the day after Sherman.¹ General Frederick Steele's Fourth Division was to join Sherman as his corps passed Helena, Arkansas, on the way to Vicksburg.²

These four fine divisions numbered 30,075 men,³ and Sherman informed Grant at Oxford, Mississippi, that "such a force operating at Vicksburg in concert with the gunboats will make something yield and prepare your way."⁴ To reach Vicksburg, however, Sherman needed a whole fleet of ships. He was ready to leave on December 18,⁵ but his sixty-two transport steamers did not arrive until the next day. Immediately the waiting troops began to load their equipment, and on the 20th the great flotilla steamed down the Mississippi River.⁶ They carried with them enough provisions for thirty days and a "full supply of ammunition for all arms."⁷ Bear's regiment was aboard the Planet, which also carried one section of Parrott guns.⁸ At last Bear was getting his wish: to ride again on a steamboat instead of walking.

DIARY NUMBER TWO

Camp at Memphis
Tuesday December the 16, 1862

My Dear Wife,

I will try and write you another letter in a book as I did the other for the reason that I can put more in one than in a letter and [it] is easier carried if not filled up at one time. I intend to fill this up as we go along with observations as they occur. I am almost well of the cold today. I feel as if I could help to clean the Rebels out of Vicksburgh anyhow, for which place we intend to start for Thursday [December 18]. The Orders is to go aboard tomorrow evening, so as to be ready to start early next morning.

There is a heavy force going to leave for that place. We are going to get the large Sibley tents⁹ before we go. Twenty can sleep in one very handy. We had a big rain since I mailed the other letter. It rained all night and till the middle of the next day. The Colonel came around while it was raining. He soon saw enough of our little do[g] tents.¹⁰ He went right away and had others ordered. It has cleared off nice this morning, the mud soon dries up here.

Sundown

We have just come off dress parade. The Colonel told us we had done better on the last march than he expected, that we was the largest Regt, that we stood marching well, and had a good r[e]putation, with the exception of burning a house in Germantown which he said he did not believe we did nor neither do I.¹¹

It is turning colder, there is a steady wind from up where you live just like as if there was snow up there. The large tents have arrived. The Canons was firing all afternoon down by the river. I suppose they were pract[ic]ing the[ir] guns on the Gunboats. I lent my Pistle and they broke the small spring. George Wilson¹² and several more have got the[ir] discharge. I have not heard from John.¹³

We have struck our large tent. There is sixteen of us now, the same as mess.

We have our beds all laid down ready to get to bed. Three or four of us are writing. We can winter in these tents very well. I hear that Jacob Bear¹⁴ was down here but has gone back again. I did change drawers for once today, and washed them and socks. I have put my name down to draw a pair of socks an[d] shoes. They say we will not get a chance to draw anything for some time. A great many drawed pants, but mine is good yet. My shirts are also but both my (Govt) sock[s] are wore out.

If I was at home writing I would not lay down to [do] it sure, as I and all the rest of us are now. If it is poor writing try and make it out for it is the best I can do. I gave Bill¹⁵ three of those Stamps. I have four yet.

Milt Ritter¹⁶ and Jacob Peck¹⁷ was just now Scuffling and upset the ink bottle and spilt most of the ink so I will quit writing for tonight.

Wednesday noon [December 17, 1862]
My little Duck,

I have just come from the Express Office. I and nine more have sent our Over coats home. They are put up in a barrel and directed to McCiney and Rogers.¹⁸ I swaped my old Gum Blanket for an Over coat, so I had two. I have sent both in the barel with my name on both. They are in the bottom of the barrel. Mine are directed to you and Bills¹⁹ to Pap. It will cost about 30 cts to the Overcoat. I paid for the barrel (20 cts) so the bbl belongs to you. Each one that gets the coats will have to pay the freight to McCiney & Rogers. So you can understand about the Coats.

There was but very few boats at the Warf when I was there. It dont look like as if we war to get off to day which I dont think we will.

It frose about as hard last night as it did up there the day we started which was pretty cold for here, but it is nice and warm now. When Soloman²⁰ and I was in town Soloman hooked two large Sweet Potatoes. He gave me one. I roasted it and it is about cold enough to eat now so I must stop writing and pi[t]ch in to it. I wish you had half of it but as it is I will eat all my self.

I have just finished the potatoe that I have just told you about. It was pretty hot but it was first rat[e] and I feel all right over it sure.

William Harrington²¹ had a Chill yesterday and one this morning. He will not go with us. He has ben sent up to the hospital in town. Ther is about Eight hundred patients there, which you will think is a great many, but it is not for such a large force as is here.

Thursday Evening after dress parade.

Thursday [December] the 18, 1862

I have several things to note today. In the first place I will tell you Cousin Samuel Bear²² was to see us today. He had not much news to tell. I sent the receipt for our Coats to you by him to Decatur. He will send it to you at Gordo.²³ You will have received it before this reaches you. He will start tonight for home.

There was a sad accident occured today. While the Artillery was practicing today with blank cartrige there was a canon went off while the gunner was drawing out the ramrod, and tore his right arm of[f] close by the elbow, and tore the whole side of his face off and burnt the hair off his head. Burnt him blind and knocked him twelve feet from the gun, but did not kill him. After being laid low [a few] minutes he came to enough to tell them to carry him off the field. Those that seen him said he suffered awfully. The Captain²⁴ was not noticing, he gave the word to fire. The one that had hold of the Lanyard pulled

away and the gun went off. The Capt took it very hard. It was an old Wisconsin Battery.²⁵ They are very well trained. We are still here yet. May be we will leave tomorrow. It is getting to[o] dark to write so I will bid you good night and a good Sleep. I wish I was. . . . [Part of page is torn off.]

Memphis Friday [December] the 19,
1862

We are still here. There was a great many fires in town last night. The fire Bells was ringing nearly all night. There was a large house burnt down several hundred yds from our Camp. A small force of the Enemy made a dash on seventeen of our teams wattering at Wolf river some two ms from here a yesterday and captured them. The Eight[h] Missouri Regt. was then mounted and sent in pursuit.²⁶ I have not heard from them yet. Geor[g]e Wilson will come to see you when he comes home. He will tell you all about it. He has got his Discharge.²⁷ He would like to stay but he cannot stand Camp life. Neither can any one that used to be troubled with the Rheumatism. We may not leave to day yet. I am well this morning. You can tell Mrs. Horton that Horton²⁸ has this minute came in to our tent. He is well with the exception of a slight pain in his neck. He says he got it by laying too long one way on it last night.

Dec. Saturday the 20, 1862

We will leave this place this fournoon. We will go aboard the Plannet.²⁹ They have already hauled the Comissary stores to the Boat. Our tent[s] are done up ready for loading. I put in a very itchy night last night. I have got the Itch or a kind of mange that made me git last night sure. I Slept but little. I was exposed to the Small Pox as I have toled you before.³⁰ At first I did not know but what it was that but it was not. There is a general breaking out [of] that in Camp. It is a little like the Scurvy I suppose caused from not getting enough of vegetable food. If I could get several messes of Onions, it would cure me I think. I am taking salts regular for five or

six times. I dont itch this morning so much.

Afternoon 3 O'Clock

We went aboard this Boat the Plannet before dinner. It is a large boat. There is a battery of 6 guns, 150 or more horses and all the bagage wagons belonging to it and our Regt and all of our Regt and then [we] are not as much crowded as when we came to this place.

I have just this minute Received your letter of the 14th which I believe makes the sixth letter I have received from you. You cant tell my little Dear Woman how glad I am to receive a letter from you. It helps to bear one up. You said in your letter you did not know where to direct your letter to was the reason you did not answer my letter, the one before the last. Always direct your letters as you did before unless I tell you different.³¹ They will go safe.

I have wrote eight or nine with this one I believe. I suppose you got all of them. Writing in a book as I [did] these two last ones I cant write as often but a great deal more. You by this way get to know all we do. You can almost tell how and what we are doing and have done. So in the rounds you will be benefited more than if I would write often and small letters. I received those stamps and paper but some devil stole four of them. I would not of had any if you had not sint this one on the Envelope. Since we came on board I got leave to go to the Post Office to get some. The P. M.³² Could not change a \$5. bill, neither could I get any any place else. I could not of sent this to you if you had not sint it for they are scarce sure.

I have bought 1 1/8 lbs. of chees and about a dozen of Aples for which I paid 50 cts. I have my haversack ful of Crackers so I think I will do pretty well this trip. You tell Mrs Bell and Mr Bell³³ for me that I wish them a long and happy life, and that I hope to get home to see them to tell them so myself.

You wished me to get my Likeness taken, when I get my pay. No Dear I would better send it home to you, for a

Likeness now would not be any different from the one you have got without it would be uglier. I have shaved my lower lip which certainly does not improve my looks. Keep the ones you have got and hope to see the Original the next time.

I wish you were here to see all the boats that is anchored here, that is to move

this force down the River. It would be a great sight.

They say I have just five minutes to send this letter so I will have to close.

So fare well My Dear for a little while. I remain as true as ever.

H C Bear

REFERENCES CHAPTER III

1. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington, 1880-1901), 1 ser., XVII, pt. 1, pp. 601-602. Hereafter cited as O. R.
2. O. R. *Navies*, 1 ser., XXIII, 558.
3. O. R., 1 ser., XVII, pt. 1, p. 602.
4. O. R. *Navies*, 1 ser., XXIII, 558.
5. O. R., 1 ser., XVII, pt. 1, p. 602.
6. *Ibid.*, 603.
7. *Ibid.*
8. O. R. *Navies*, 1 ser., XXIII, 564.
9. One enlisted man described these tents thus: "Sibley tents—those cumbersome conical caravansaries, in which eighteen men lie upon the ground with their feet toward the center." David L. Thompson, "In the Ranks to the Antietam," *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War* (N. Y., 1884-1887), II, 556. Thompson was in Co. G of 9th N. Y. Volunteers.
10. The army now calls them "pup" tents. They are two-man tents composed of two pieces of canvas buttoned together.
11. A special dispatch from Cairo, Ill. reported that Germantown was burned by soldiers in the 8th Missouri (in the same brigade as the 116th Ill.) and that the division commander had shot the offenders. *Chicago Daily Tribune*, Dec. 2, 1862.
12. See note 12, Chapt. II.
13. See note 10, Chapt. II.
14. Jacob Bear of Hickory Point Twp., Macon Co.; was an uncle of Henry C. Bear.
15. See note 35, Chapt. II.
16. John Milton Ritter of Oakley, priv. in Company A; mustered out as sgt. with the regt. on June 7, 1865.
17. Jacob Peck of Oakley, priv. in Company A; mustered out with regt. on June 7, 1865.
18. Andrew McKinney and A. L. Rodgers of Cerro Gordo. These men were partners in the first store built in Cerro Gordo (in 1856), and Andrew McKinney was the postmaster. While Bear's wife was living with her relatives, she picked up her mail at Cerro Gordo which is close to Oakley.
- See Emma C. Piatt, *History of Piatt County* (Chicago, 1883), 462, 487.
19. See note 35, Chapt. II.
20. Solomon S. Bowman of Decatur, priv. in Company A; transferred to Veteran Relief Corps Jan. 10, 1865.
21. William R. Harrington of Oakley, corp. in Company A; discharged on Feb. 2, 1863 for disability.
22. Son of Samuel Bear, Sr. of Decatur.
23. Cerro Gordo in Piatt Co. It is just a few miles east of Oakley.
24. Capt. Jacob T. Foster of LaCrosse, Wis., promoted to lt. col. Sept. 9, 1864; mustered out July 14, 1865.
25. It was the First Wisconsin Artillery, attached to Gen. George W. Morgan's Third Division of the Thirteenth Corps. This was the only Wisconsin artillery outfit in this expedition. The battery of light artillery was organized at LaCrosse, Wis. before the war and was then called the LaCrosse Artillery. It won recognition as "a well drilled company." In Oct., 1861 it was mustered into federal service and was equipped with a "battery of six twenty pounder Parrott rifle guns." It was assigned to Gen. Morgan in Mar. 1862, and on Nov. 26 it moved to Memphis, Tenn. and joined Gen. Sherman. E. B. Quiner, *The Military History of Wisconsin* . . . (Chicago, 1866), 928-929.
26. The 8th Missouri was in the same brigade with 116th Illinois.
27. See note 12, Chapt. II.
28. William H. Horton of Oakley, wagoner in Company G; deserted Jan. 19, 1863.
29. Correct spelling is *Planet*.
30. Entry of Dec. 10, 1862.
31. The mailing address of the 116th Illinois at this time was Department of the Tennessee, in care of Memphis. *Chicago Daily Tribune*, Dec. 3, 1862.
32. Postmaster.
33. Probably Josiah Bell of Oakley, a farmer; born in Penn.

IV. Cruising Down the River

ON BOARD the *Forest Queen*, which served as his corps headquarters, General Sherman and his staff preceded the flotilla down the Mississippi. He had already dispatched gunboats to secure the Yazoo River, just north of Vicksburg. On December 20, 1862, he reported to his division commanders that the gunboats controlled the Yazoo up from its mouth on the Mississippi for a distance of twenty-three miles. The plan of operation called for the gunboat fleet to sail on up the Yazoo while the Thirteenth Army Corps was to disembark from the transports at a favorable point for an attack upon Vicksburg. First, however, the communication lines to Vicksburg must be severed. Sherman therefore ordered that when his assault force reached Milliken's Bend, a brigade was to be dispatched to cut the Vicksburg and Shreveport Railroad.¹ Later however, Sherman decided to send two brigades for separate strokes against

the railway, and Bear was a member of the second of these raiding parties.²

DIARY NUMBER THREE

Sunday Dec the 21, [1]862

My Dear and affectionate Wife,

I take my pen to fill another book to send to you. We are at the present time aground on a sand bar opposite some Camps, I suppose near Hellena,³ between 60 & a 100 ms from Memphis. We run nearly all night so we must be some distance from Memphis. There was a great many Boats passed us since we run aground which was some three hours ago. Just now I see another boat pulling another off a sand bar. I suppose they will come and pull us off to[o].

I slept tollerable well last night. I would of slept better if I had not [had] to scratch so much. It is just now sun

up. I was cut short with my other letter in consequence of the man taking the letters to the office. I had to send it with him or not send it at all, and so as you see I did not get to fill the book full. An hour after I mailed it John⁴ came to us on the boat from Holly Springs. He came by Railroad and boat some four hundred miles. He came by the way of Columbus, [Kentucky]. He did not come with us. He looks better than when I saw him last and I think feels a great deal better. You folks at home must not write to him and tell him to try and get a discharge for it has a bad influence. In writing to any of us, especially if we are a little under the weather, to stick it out manfully allways encourage[s] us to persevere and never get discouraged for it has got a great influence sure. I saw Johns letter from Mary.⁵ He stays at Memphis with a great many of the boys from the Regt. This is a nice Morning sure.

Noon

We are still fast yet. Two large boats pulled at us but failed to get us off. We have broken two 4 inch ro[pe]s already. I dont believe we will get off today. The river is raising. It may soon get high enough to float the Boat. A thirteen or fourteen gun Boat has just passed us going down the river. I dont care if they do not get the boat off for a week. We have nice quarters on board so I as a true Soldier am contented. It was foggy last night which was the reason we got aground.

1 O'Clock

They have after a long pull got us off the Bar. You can tell about how hard they pulled when they streached a 4 inch ro[pe] 250 yards long with the help all our powerful Engine could command. We are now turning the bow down stream again.

Sundown

We have went 7 o[r] 8 ms and stopt on the A[rk]ansas shore. 35 of our Company is on picket. 6 from our mess staid

to cook. Bill⁶ has got some thing like the flux.

We will go aboard soon. I have ba[i]ted my hook and cast my line but have got no bite yet. It is warm this evening. We are getting a little nearer the sesesh. By all accounts they intend to show fight at Vicksburgh. One gunboat and 8 others are in sight. The Mississippi Banks are low here. There is a small town on the opposite bank but I do not know the name. It is getting too dark to write so good night to all you dear friends up in Illinois.

Midnight

I am writing by the light of the fire. Bill has gone to the boat. Four of us are sleeping here on the bank by the fire. The rest of our Company is on picket. I had but my two blankets to sleep with. It is too cold, so I thought I would get up and write a letter. I think I shal bring suit against the Crescent City for running foul of my fishing line tonight. She has got two Reg[t]s. aboard.⁷ The boats have piled in he[re] by the dozen since dark. They are strung all along the bank. There is more than fifty large boats here now and still more a coming so I will quit till morning, good night.

Sunup [December] the 22nd [1862]

We are still wher[e] we landed last evening. I learn the name of the place is called Five points. The Boats are passing us and anchoring below. This is the place where a boat was fired into, by the name of Mill boy.⁸ The rebles killed two & wounded two but they are gone from here now.

Bill is not much better yet. He is here with us. It is nice this morning. Those Onions I bought at Memphis have cured me of the Scratches. I feel all right this morning.

The boys have jus now come off of picket to their breakfast. They will return back again soon. The river is perfectly lined with boats this morning.

Two O'clock P M

We are moveing along slowly today. We started at 9 O'Cl. this morning. We passed a black bear half hour ago on the bank. I would liked to have tried my old gun on him sure. There is a division on ahead of us. There is five Divisions going down.⁹ A Gunboat goes with each Division just in frunt. We have just passed the one that goes in frunt of our division. We also passed about a mile of the enemys brush tents on the Arkansas shore. They have left them some time ago. A twenty pound Parot Gun stands ready on the Bow of the Boat to belch away at the Rebles whenever they Show them selves. The port holes of the Gunboat are open and thirteen guns stuck out.

Going down this river the Country back from the river looks like as if it was lower than it is at the River. The River inundates the Country when it gets high. You can go often forty or fifty miles without seeing a house or any sign of habitation. So it is from Cairo down.

Bill,¹⁰ John Peck,¹¹ and Alexander Jones¹² have got the Diarhea pretty bad. It tears them down soon. They are taking medicine for it but is no better yet.¹³

Tuesday [December] the 23
[1862] 12 O'Clock

We started from our landing this morning at 8 O'Clock. We run most of the night. We run faster to day than yesterday. We are just about half way between Memphis and Vicksburgh. There is about twenty Boats in sight. We are just now passing a sugar factory. There is more Plantations in sight today than yesterday. The boys are not much, if any better, yet. One gets tired riding on a boat as well as any where else. I got my hair cut since we went aboard, and what do you think the Barber charged me? Nothing mor nor less than Half a dollar, the son of a bitch. I toled him it was the last he would get of me. We are now passing another sugar mill. I wish I had some of the sugar for I had no sugar to put in my coffe for dinner. I just now see a man on the bank. I suppose he is

a Sesesh. It is some what cloudy today. It is tollerable warm. I have a notion to get my supper in the Cabbins this evening and pay fifty cts. Dan Bowen¹⁴ and Stine¹⁵ got theirs last night. They said it was good. I will write you the Distances between the different landings between St Louis and Neworleans. . . .¹⁶

Wednesday [December] 24, 1862

It does not seem to me that it is the day before Christmas sure, but [it] is I g[u]ess. Time passes fast in the army and¹⁷ another reason that it dont appear so near Christmas is it is not as Cold as it is up there. We stoped at this place; it is no landing here. They have just stop[p]ed to wood up. They are taking about one hundred Cords of wood in this Boat at this place. Most of our Company was detailed to carry wood last night. They carried nearly all night. The boys are no better with the Diarhea yet. They are looking bad and slim sure. The Damed Surgeons are not worth a Curse. They dont [k]no[w] any thing. We got a ration of whiskey this morning. I did not drink all of mine but what I did drink made me feel it considerable. I feel it some yet. You must not blame me for taking a little once in a while.

They are still loading wood on the different Boats yet. I dont know how long they will continue to load. They say it is 160 ms to Vicksburgh from here. I feel all right with the exception of my right arm. Day before yesterday the Orderly came past me. I kind of mad[e] a pass at him as if I was going to hit him and a pain flew in my arm between my sholder and elbow and it still continues to pain me when I go to rais[e] my arm back wards or side ways. It does not hurt me to raise it up in frunt. It is warm and Cloudy this morning. If it rains we will be in the dry, for we are on what is called the Boiler Deck. I would call it Cabin deck. It is the deck between the Deck and the Hurricane deck. We are on the Right side of the Boat near the Smoke Stack. With a good roof over us we will be in the dry if it rains.

There is a fuss on hands just now. John Fields¹⁸ is half tight. He wants the Cracker box I am writing on but he wont get it by a damed sight till I get done with it. He is now fussing with Bill Hickman.¹⁹ I wish Bill would knock hell out of him the son of a bitch.

12 O'Clock

We have just pushed off. I have counted 24 Boats in the rear of us. I cant see from where I am writing how many is on ahead. It looks nice to see the Boats string out on the water. We have allmost stopped again. It is said the Enemy has some fortifications a little ways below. If they have we will get to see them I suppose. We are just now passing a large Gunboat. Most of the Gunboats show but little above water. The one that goes with our Division is allmost square. It dont mutch resemble a boat. It looks more like a fort. It slants up from the waters edge. It is plated with iron.

The one that we are passing I dont think is near as formidable. I would like to learn the names of all the gunboats and others to send to you, if I can I will. We have a new recruit²⁰ that enlisted at Memphis that got tight this morning while he and the rest was carrying in wood. He got to cursing the Officers. They tied him. He is now laying within ten feet of me and is asleep. Now Bill Reason²¹ is now Cutting up hell because some one said a nigger was better than he is. They will buck and gag him pretty soon if he dont dry up.

Company A has got its tail up this morning sure. The Lieut. has dried Reason up just now. We are got under good head way now.

One O'Clock

We have just passed Three Steers that jumped from some Other boat. One was drowned, the others was still trying to keep above water. We also passed a Steamboat that was run ashore and burnt. It was burnt some time ago.

We can begin to see where they have throwed up levies to keep the water from inundating the whole Country.

Sundown

We have just finished our supper. I had for supper one Cracker, two inches of Balona Sausage and over three pints of Coffee. You may think that is drinking Coffee pretty Strong but I did it. We all have a general longing for Coffe on board. We dont like the River water. You can tell how warm it is when I tell you the swet Ran down my breast and face out in the open air while we was eating, and so it did some of the rest. Bill²² and Alexander Jones²³ are better. John Peck²⁴ is not.

We are running at a moderate rate today. The b[o]ys are over their tight so all is quiet on the Potomac.²⁵

I have read the Presidents Message.²⁶ I dont know what you folks think of it; I would like to know the opinion generally. I know I endorse it soul and body.

If it will end the war the quickest and honorable to the United States praise be to Old Abe. It is endorsed in the Army generally and I hope the North, the South and the whole Country will adopt something like those Articles recommended to Congress. We can clean them out by force but it might take some time to do it though. I am not so awful keen to get in to a regular set to fight sure. It would be doing away with the cause of the war and show to the South that we can whip them and at the same time it gives them a kind of an excuse to come back in to the Union. I think seven of [the] states South would adopt something like those articles if the North would.

You may if you will sew these books together. When I take the back off the leaves fall apart. I may want to see them myself when I get home. Sew each book seperate.²⁷

Christmas [December 25, 1862]

Well Dear, Christmas has come at last and I wish you all Dear friends a happy

time. I hope you all have a good time sure.

I have nothing to send to you as a gift but my good wishes and my wishes are that your wishes in our behalf may come true and that before another Christmas comes around we may all be together to enjoy it and that the war may be ended and the Country may repose in peace. This is a warm Christmas, warmer than ever I expected to see a Christmas. I am sweating writing this morning. We will cook several days rations this morning before we start. The boys all are a great deal better this morning of the Diarhea. I suppose they will soon get well again. I am well and hope you all are.

I am going to take a Christmas dinner in the Cabin today if they dont charge more than 50 cts. I have but a little more than two dollars yet. I give the Cooks one Dol[lar] this morning. I [have] just now heard that the town a Napoleon is burnt because they fired into the hind most Boat yesterday. The gunboats went back and burnt her up. I wish we all war up home to take dinner with you, but I would sooner be there to put my arms around your neck and press those sweet lips I have often pressed before. I would ask nothing more. There was a great deal of Devilment done on board last night. Some one throws one of the wagon wheels over board and²⁸ destroyed, Race the sutler says, sixteen hundred dolars worth of goods and stole about three hundred. They took once before about three hundred dollars worth of tobacco from him. As far as I am conserved I would not care if they would take all he had. He would skin a louse for its hide and tallow. Our boat will go down from here fifteen miles then stop and our Regt will get off and go on a six mile scout. We will be within fifteen ms of Vicksburgh then. We will leave our knapsacks and sick ones on board. Our Company has only 55 reported able to go.²⁹ We will I suppose see something of the enemy. It is so warm I believe I will take my under shirt off. A twelve mile tramp will make us swet, not being use to it will worry us sure. I am well and able for it. Bill³⁰ will stay

on board with the rest of the sick. What the object is to go out six miles is I do not know. I suppose I will miss my Christmas dinner on board. It is 12 O'Clock.

Friday [December] the 26, 1862
(9 O'Cl.)

Yesterday I toled you we war going to take a scout. We did. We started half past two P. M. & got back at ten P. M. We went about thirteen ms. in that time. The object in going was to tear up a Rail Road the rebles are using.³¹ There was only about 150 guarding it. They fled on our approach. They fired about 40 bails of cotton before they left. You better believe we made the Railroad git. We, that is four Regts of us,³² strung along the track on one side, took hold of the ties and turned about three quarters or a mile of it upside down, then tore off the ties, piled them up, then laid the railing on. When hot, bent them in the middle. We took two prisoners, an Ambulance and a four mule team. One man got his leg broke and six got hurt other ways. The pickets fired several vol[leys] at us but did not hit us. On this Road they shiped a great deal of stuff to Vicksburgh. The Prisoners say they are strongly fortified at Vicksburgh. They know exactly how many men we have. They knew better than most of us. I did not know till last night how many gunboats we had in this upper fleet. We have 24 and I believe fifty odd transports. They also said they war evacuating Vicksburg.³³ We are by River 14 ms from there. We are started down stream again. The Officers think we will have to fight them there. We are all ready for them if they stand fight sure.

It looks like as if it might rain. Today is³⁴ very Cloudy. It was a nice little Christmas spree for us tearing up the track. We all will remember it. When I get home, as I think and hope we all will, we will talk it all over. I can tell you then a great deal better than to write [it] on paper. I would like nothing better than to sit down and talk it over to you all. The boys are mending still a little.

I am well and harty as a buck. I breakfasted on rice, Coffee and Crackers this morning. I have a good appetite.

I thought till just now I had a postage stamp but I remember I put the last one on the last letter I sent you. I will have hard work to find one to send this. One can hardly get one here. One cant get a dollar bill changed without taking most of it out. If you will you may send some more stamps and you will be doing me a great favor sure. You need not send paper. I can get it here. I would of had some yet but some one stole four and I give Bill three, he cant get any. I will send this as quick as I get one. I will commence an other book right away. I remain true as ever, good by dear.

H C Bear

[On the *Planet* in the Yazoo River]³⁵
[December 26, 1862]

Just 12 O'Clock [Noon]

We have just entered the mouth of the Yazoo River. All of the fleet is going up this river, I think at least the Transports are. I will note down several things as we go up this river. The Artillery horses are all harnessed.³⁶ I have just finished my dinner in the Cabin. I feel lots better. We are just now going to land. We are going to draw five day rations then strike out. We may go 200 yds and we may go 25 ms for what I know. I will have to seal my letter, so good by to you all till I write again.

H C Bear

[P. S.] We are landing on the opposite side from Vicksburgh.³⁷

REFERENCES

CHAPTER IV

1. O. R. *Navies*, 1 ser., XXIII, 559-560.
2. O. R. 1 ser., XVII, pt. 1, p. 605.
3. Helena, Ark.
4. See note 10, Chapt. II.
5. Probably Henry C. Bear's sister who later married W. McArty of Cisco, Ill.
6. See note 35, Chapt. II.
7. This steamer which Bear mentions as having cut his fishing line was assigned to Gen. George W. Morgan's Third Division and carried the 22nd Kentucky and the 54th Indiana Volunteers. O. R. *Navies*, 1 ser., XXIII, 564.
8. The *Mill Boy* was a steamer in government service. She was not seriously damaged by the Confederates, and on Dec. 24, 1862, Maj. Gen. Hurlbut ordered her to report to Memphis for duty. O. R. *Navies*, 1 ser., XXIII, 647.
9. According to all the records, there were only four divisions in Sherman's Thirteenth Corps.
10. See note 35, Chapt. II.
11. John Peck of Oakley, sgt. in Company A; died at home on Sept. 28, 1863.
12. See note 13, Chapt. II.
13. According to one hospital steward, the most prevalent disease during the Civil War was diarrhea or dysentery. Charles Beneulyn Johnson, *Muskets and Medicine or Army Life in the Sixties* (Philadelphia, 1917), 259. Dr. Johnson served in Civil War hospitals while attached to the 130th Illinois Vol. Inf. as a hospital steward.
14. See note 17, Chapt. II.
15. James Stine of Decatur, corp. in Company A; discharged because of wounds Feb. 2, 1865, with rank of sgt.
16. This listing of river landings has been omitted here.
17. The word "and" is repeated.
18. John Fields of Cerro Gordo, priv. in Company A; mustered out with regiment on June 7, 1865. Perhaps the reason that nobody did "knock hell out of him" was because he was a blacksmith! Piatt, *Hist. of Piatt Co.*, 480.
19. See note 18, Chapt. II.
20. John R. Walker, recruit of Company A; enlisted Dec. 17, 1862, and deserted Jan. 9, 1863. This was the only recruit who

- enlisted at Memphis. He gave no home address.
21. William J. Reason, priv. in Company A; mustered out with the regiment on June 7, 1865.
 22. See note 35, Chapt. II.
 23. See note 13, Chapt. II.
 24. See note 11, above.
 25. "All quiet on the Potomac" was a phrase made famous by the newspaper reporters in Washington, D. C., who nightly informed their readers that McClellan still had his Army of the Potomac in camp. Hence, a period of no activity was synonymous with this phrase.
 26. Bear refers to Lincoln's annual message to Congress on Dec. 1, 1862. Lincoln proposed a constitutional amendment which would put into force his plan of compensated emancipation of the slaves. He proposed to issue Federal bonds to finance his gradual process of emancipation which was to be completed by 1900. See *Ex. Doc. No. 1*, 37th Cong., 3rd sess., I, 12-23.
 27. Bear's wife did not follow his instructions, and the books remain just as he sent them.
 28. The word "and" is repeated.
 29. Company A at full strength was composed of 87 privates and non-commissioned officers. *Report Adj. Gen. State of Ill.*, VI, 249-251.
 30. See note 35, Chapt. II.
 31. The Vicksburg and Shreveport Railroad. See intro. to Chapt. IV.
 32. This was the First Brigade, commanded by Col. Giles A. Smith. See *O. R.*, 1 ser., XVII, pt. 1, p. 605.
 33. These false reports were spread by Confederate prisoners on purpose to mislead the Union army. As late as Apr. 17, 1863, Maj. Gen. S. A. Hurlbut reported to Grant that secessionists were reporting Vicksburg to be abandoned. *O. R.*, 1 ser., XXIV, pt. 1, p. 30.
 34. The word "is" is repeated.
 35. This letter is written on a small slip of paper. Evidently, Bear wrote it before he found a stamp to send his Diary No. 3 and enclosed it with the diary. It is possible to date it exactly from the postscript. In his next letter of Dec. 27, 1862, written in Diary No. 4, he repeats the statement that he landed on the 26th.
 36. The steamer *Planet* carried one section of artillery in addition to the 116th Ill. Regt. See intro. to Chapt. III.
 37. What Bear meant was that they were landing north of Vicksburg—not across the Mississippi River in Louisiana. Sherman's force disembarked about 13 miles up the Yazoo River.



V. The Fight at Chickasaw Bluffs

GENERAL SHERMAN'S Thirteenth Army Corps was carried up the Yazoo River by the transports on December 26, 1862. The gunboats spearheaded the attack, followed by General Morgan's Third Division. Next in line was the Fourth Division under General Steele, and following him was General Morgan L. Smith with his Second Division, of which the 116th Illinois was a component. Bringing up the rear was General A. J. Smith's First Division.¹

Every precaution was taken to prevent an ambush. Two companies on each boat were detailed to guard against enemy fire by being on deck with loaded muskets and full battle equipment.² However, the fleet proceeded thirteen miles up the Yazoo to its disembarkation points without incident. The Union troops started to feel for the Confederate positions on December 27. Bear was in the First Brigade of the Second Division, and this brigade was held in reserve until December 29. On that day the First Brigade was ordered into the line to attack the enemy trenches, but the 6th Missouri crossed first and bore the brunt of the fire.³

Bear's regiment, also subjected to heavy fire, was pinned down and could not follow the men of the 6th Missouri, who had crossed the bayou and were under the Confederate positions. After a futile attempt to storm the fortifications, the First Brigade was withdrawn on December 31, and the soldiers returned to their trans-

ports. The 116th Illinois had lost just five enlisted men—all wounded and none killed.⁴ Bear had had his first taste of combat and he was ready to return to garrison duty, but General Sherman's troops were just beginning on a long hard road of marching and fighting.

The first attempt to capture Vicksburg had ended in failure, and by January 1, 1863, the Thirteenth Army Corps was ready to withdraw from its Yazoo River campaign. Sherman had counted on Grant to attack Vicksburg from the opposite side at the same time. However, on December 20 the Confederate forces had raided Grant's secondary base of supply, Holly Springs, and cut the communication lines. For more than a week no messages could be sent to Sherman, and for more than two weeks Grant was short of rations and supplies. It was impossible for him to move to the support of Sherman as had been planned. As Grant described the situation, "Sherman's attack was very unfortunate, but I had no opportunity of communicating with him after the destruction of the road and telegraph to my rear on the 20th." Without a simultaneous attack in the rear of Vicksburg to support Sherman's assault, "the rebel position was impregnable against any force that could be brought against its front."⁵

DIARY NUMBER FOUR

Yazoo River near Vicksburgh
January the 2nd 1863

My ever Dear and Affectionate Wife,

I can still say I am in the land amongst the living; something that I hardly expected a few days ago. I am well after going through the hardest times in my life. Bill⁶ is not so well. He has some pain in his breast and spitt up Blood. He is better this morning. We have to leave behind some of our Comrades. Alexander Jones⁷ was buried yesterday. He died of the Congestive Chill and hard treatment.

I will now give you a faint history of what we went through since we landed at this infernal place. I had not this book along with me but I got a strip of paper. I will now copy it of[f] in this book.

Dec. the 27, 1862

We landed yesterday as I told you we⁸ did in my other letter.⁹ We started this morning to feel for the enemy. About twelve O'clock we war drawn up in the line of Battle about a mile from the enemys lines.

We drove back their pickets. The enemy are drawn up in line on the other side of a field. We are now feeling for his flank. We will go for them in the morning. Just now three 20 lb Parrott guns went past going to the front. The Parrot gun is undoubtedly the best in the service. They will throw a shell from four to five miles.

Near Sundown

We have just now advanced a little. We can hear the cannon roar very heavy. They are on a larg[e] hill this side of the town with rifle pits and heavy fortifications scattered evry where. They have a heavy force here. They will be hard to whip here.

Sunday Morning [December 28, 1862]

There was some Artillery fire and Infantry firing last night. What the loss is I have not learned.

Gen Grant is not here yet and may not get here.¹⁰ There is a large force engaged right in front of us. The Artillery and

Musketry is very heavy. We all feel the time has come for a great battle. Our Brigade^{2,1} is held as a reserve. We may be called in any moment.

[December] the 29 [1862] at Sunup

We was not called into action yesterday. Fireing has commenced this morning at sunup. We are ordered to the front this morning with the Missouri Sixth and Eighth Regt[s] on our right and the Thirteenth Regulars on our left. I will tell you now what kind of a place we was led in to.

I will give you the disposition of the forces: A. J. Smiths Division¹² on the extreme right, M. L. Smith Division (ours)¹³ on the right center, General Morgan¹⁴ and Steel¹⁵ on our left. We war in Curly Smiths Brigade.¹⁶ The enemy occupied the hills with a level field filled with rifle pits in front. In the first place they felled all the trees in front of them. They cut them all down to the bank of a deep Byeau. On the other side of the Byeau was a levee some 12 or 15 feet high. On the other side they dug it so that it would be about Breast high for them and it was filled with Sharp Shooters. Before we could get to them we had to cut a road through the abbatis which was no easy job sure. We hat to cut it up to within Sixty yards of their pits. Then there was a distance of Sixty yards open space before we could get to their brest works which was nothing more than the levee. The way we war to get at them was to go through this narrow road where their whole fire could be centered, and we had to file through just as if we war going through a gate. In the first place we sent a force forward to deploy along on the bank on this side to pick them off as they stuck their heads up to shoot as our men crossed the Byeau which was dry just at this place but full and deep every where else. It was a hazardous undertaking sure.

Well we started, four Reg[t]s of us: the 6th M[issouri] is first, then the 8th Missouri, then us. We had to all go in a string not in line of Battle. The Sixth

Missouri got a cross the byeau to their rifle pits right under the bank; they had I suppose sixty killed and wounded¹⁷ in crossing that short space. After they war under the bank they war safe but the 8th and us was yet to cross. When they began to pour in their heavy fire we all fell to our bellies. We was there within 80 yds of them and could not fire for fear of hitting our men so there we all lay from half past twelve till after dark and it a raining half of the afternoon and then all the time pouring in a storm of bullets. We would not dare leave for they would of crossed the levee and taken the Sixth Prisoners sure. Wa[i]ted till it got dark and then the 8th and Thirteenth Regulars commenced fireing as hard as they could, for what I know up in the air, and they war affraid to poke their head up above their works. So under our fire the Sixth escaped what was feared their certain destruction. Wonder full to relate the balls did not kill any of us. I cant tell how it came for they [s]truck all around, right in frunt of my head and over our backs into the trees and bushes. One spent buck shot hit me on the leg but did not hurt me. I have got it. One went through Charley Rundles¹⁸ Overcoat cape just missing a fellows head. It was a hot place sure. I dont want to get in any hotter, at least I want if I do to have a chance to Shoot too. We fell back a hundred yards after dark. It rained like forty all night. We stuck our guns, our bayonets, in the ground and sat down against trees till morning. Early in the morning they commenced fireing at us again. The balls whized passed us, one struck Jim Eeds¹⁹ canteen—went through till it came to the cloth on the opposite side and then stop[p]ed. If it had not of been there it would of killed him. Dave Landers²⁰ of Oakley was hit in the leg. I g[u]ess he will not loose his leg. Several others was also struck. Our guns got wet so I thought I would go up to the picket line and fire one shot any how. I g[u]ess I did not hit any person on the other side. I believe the Sixth lost a little less than a hundred and had their Colonel (Col Blood)²¹ severely wounded. General

M. L. Smith was Severely wounded in the hip the first day which throwed a damper on the whole army.²² Two other Colonels was wounded by their Sharpshooters.

Dec the 31 [1862]

Yesterday there was no fireing from our side. We was (our Company) on picket. We had strict orders not to fire even if they fired all the time.

Last night we throwed up brest works to protect the artillerist[s] from [the] fire of the Sharp shooters. We can see that they war not Idle either. They was pounding all night. We can see this morning a heavy cannon right in front of us.

They have one of the strongest natural Works here in the whole south. With but very little work they can make it almost impregnable. I believe if we had of crossed that levee we would never have got back.

They had it harder on our left. They made a charge there. One Ohio Regt²³ in Blairs Brigade went into the charge with less than three hundred and lost 117. We would of fared just as bad if we could of got across the byeau. We must of lost all together, prisoners and all, two thousand men.²⁴ We have not force enough to take it.

The Sixth Missouri while they laid on the bank of the Levee they could tutch theirs [rifles] as they stuck theirs over to shoot. They, the Rebles, never took sight but raised their guns over their heads, the muzzle pointing downward, then pull[ed] tricker. They would throw over Corn bread. Our boys would shoot the end of their guns of[f]. We cant tell how many they have killed.²⁵

New Years Sunday [January 1, 1863]

Yesterday our Brigade left silently about 8 O'clock at night, came back to the boats, took boat, went up four or five miles in the night [and] staid there all day. We had a better New Years than ever expected. We two²⁶ bought a can of apple

butter [and] some chees. We had a tollerable dinner.

January the 2, 1863

We left where we spent New Years, came back in the night where we first landed, loaded all our camp equipage and evry thing.

I could not tell what was up but I know now we are on a Reetreat sure as shooting. The whole army is embarked and the Bows of the Boats are turned down the Yazoo toward the Miss[iss]ippi and I dont care a darn. I hope they wont Stop till they get to Camp Macon.²⁷

The River is raising fast and it is raining like blazes now.

January 3, 1863

Another day is passed and gone. We are going up the Miss[iss]ippi. I suppose to Memphis to wait a while and get a heavier force, or wait till peace is declared. I prefer the latter. I dont want to get in another such a place. No person can tell how much soldiers suffers on and near a battle field. They cant have fires nor half enough to eat. We all left our wollen blankets on the boats so we had to put in that awful Rainy and Cold night with our gum blankets. You folk at home cant begin to tell what it is to be in such a place. I know I never thought it would be so. I believe evry time there is a battle, it rains. It is raining now and it rained all night with heavy thunder and sharp lightning. It is well we got out of that sickly bottom or we would of never got our cannon out when the river is up. Where we was in the bottom the water is from ten to fifteen feet deep all over. Since we landed to go there the r[i]ver has raised 8 or ten feet. Our officers knowed if we did not soon get out we never would. We saved all—evry thing. They was affraid to leave their fortifications for fear it was only a feint to draw them from their works.

January the 3rd [1863] One O'Clock

What is the use of talking and what is the use of thinking of the fight when

one can get three letters from home. It gives one hope to get letters from home sure. Here we are on this Boat from 15 to 30 mile from the Yazoo river. The boat tied fast to the shore. I say here I am feeling as good over my three letters as if, well I was a going to say as if I was bound for home, but not quite. I received the letters, the dates 21, (23 from Ross),²⁸ [and] 25th.²⁹

Confound the thing: the Orderly just now says I have to go and help dig down the bank so we can unload. I have to quit writing and go. Well who cares, I dont. We got done digging and it is raining like blazes. It is sundown.

Duck you wanted to know how I came by that coat. You think perhaps I hooked it but I did not. I traded my gum blanket for it as you will see if you get my letter that I sent you as we started down the river.³⁰

You did not say what letter you got, w[h]ether the one I sent by Jake³¹ or the one I sent as we started down the river but by the way you writ you must of got the one I sent by not Jake but Sam.³² I cant tell how I burnt it. You take good care of those Coats till I come home.

You perhaps will get the Reble account of this Reconnaissance and they will call it a great Victory. They cant call it a victory for we found out their position. We call it a great stragatic movement. We saved every thing but if they had of known the position of affairs when we was getting on our boats and made a rush they could of taken us all prisoners.

We think we have performed one of the greatest strategic movements of the war but darn the strategic movements. Talk is talk but if I was at home the South might buss my belly. I have bought a dimes worth of onions this evening. I mean to go in heavy after [them]. I naturally have a longing for onions. We had a pot of beans to day, the first since Christmas and the first of any thing else but crackers and a little bacon and that I cant eat. Many a meal we [got] nothing but Coffe and crackers. I can stand it. I believe I can live on mink shanks if I

have to but a great many cant stand it. Lots of the boys look slim. There was only 35 reported well this morning.³³ It goes hard to part with Jones.³⁴ He got tore down coming down on the boat. So that rainy night chilled him too much and give him a congestive chill and the treatment he received from our surgeons. They are perfect cutthroats. The bloody hounds would just as soon a man would die as not.

Jones was decently buried. It will almost break his wife's heart to hear the unwelcome news but so it is. It cant be helped so I will stop for tonight. I wish you all good night and hope it is not raining there as it is here.

January the 4, 1863

This a bright clear morning a little colder than usual. It is refreshing after the long damp and rainy times we had. We are just now leaving Shore. It is about ten O'clock. Duck you must not of gotten Either of my two last letters: the ones I sent as we started from Memphis or the one I sent as we landed up the Yazoo River. You did not know that we had started, as we supposed, to take Vicksburgh. You must have them by this time and may be uneasy for our welfare. You may hope and wish us well but if we go into a battle and we go under you must not fret your self sick or any thing else for a great many as good and better has to fall in this unnatural struggle. Hope and pray that we may return but if not bear your loss as becomes a brave woman.

It was hard to see the brave boys of the Sixth Missouri die but those that are dead are out of their misery. I hope it will be the last fight in this war. I dont want to see another. There is only 330 reported fit for duty in our Regt which is dwindling it down pretty fast.³⁵ There has but few died.

You may think I have s[u]ddently changed my tune but you may think and evry body else when I say I would, and

there is but few on this boat but what would, give all the government ow[e]s them if they war at home and this war ended.

I wish you folks at home could of seen the 116th hug the ground for more than a half day. It would make you laugh sure but there was no fun in it. We did not dare stick our heads up. The rebles shot a kind of small shell that would burst when it would hit any thing and make frightful wounds and their guns would crack a great deal louder and different than ours.³⁶ I will be perfectly satisfied if we dont go back to that infernal place a gain. I believe and I know that if the Sixth and eighth Missouri Regt[s] had of crossed that levee the 116th would not of been a foot behind them. Evry man would of followed. Our Colonel was cool and in front. Near all of our Company officers was sick or got sick. Greason was in command; he was not excited but cool as a cucumber. I shood not wonder if he was Captain before long.³⁷ There was only 35 or 40 to go in but we would of went her sure. What is the use of talking about fiting when we are going up the river as hard as we can go. This boat is now towing a gunboat and so is an other boat doing the same. They are all headed up stream, where to I do not know.

I got the candy you sent in those letters. I sent thos[e] two that was directed to John³⁸ up to the Foundry Hospital at Memphis.³⁹ One was from Joseph⁴⁰ I g[u]ess. I did not open Either. One had candy in it. Well my book is most full. I wish I had another but when I get home which I hope wont be long I will tell you more fully what it is to be a soldier.

We have not got any news from the East for a long time. Tell Ross⁴¹ I was glad to get a letter from him.

Bear up my true woman. I hope to see you before long.

Yours for ever
H C Bear

REFERENCES

CHAPTER V

1. O. R., 1 ser., XVII, pt. 1, p. 606.
2. O. R. *Navies*, 1 ser., XXIII, 563.
3. O. R., 1 ser., XVII, pt. 1, pp. 633-634; for an interesting letter, written by an Indiana lieut. on Jan. 1, 1863, describing this battle, see Willie D. Halsell, ed., "The Sixteenth Indiana Regiment in the Last Vicksburg Campaign," *Indiana Magazine of History*, XLIII, 70-72 (Mar., 1947). Halsell confuses the 6th Missouri with the 8th Missouri on p. 72.
4. O. R., 1 ser., XVII, pt. 1, p. 625.
5. O. R. *Navies*, 1 ser., XXIII, 598; *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant* (N. Y., 1885), I, 432-433, 437, 438.
6. See note 35, Chapt. II.
7. See note 13, Chapt. II.
8. The word "we" is repeated.
9. See entry of Dec. 26, 1862, in Chapt. IV.
10. Sherman was of the opinion that Grant would move his forces from Oxford, Miss. and also attack Vicksburg. O. R. *Navies*, 1 ser., XXIII, 560.
11. The First Brigade (Second Division), commanded by Col. Giles A. Smith.
12. First Division.
13. Second Division.
14. George W. Morgan, Third Division.
15. Frederick Steele, Fourth Division.
16. Col. Giles A. Smith of Decatur. He was formerly with the 35th Ill., but the Sec. of War gave him permission to raise a brigade in Illinois. *Illinois State Journal*, Aug. 14, 1862. His brigade in this action consisted of the 113th Ill., the 116th Ill., the 6th Mo., the 8th Mo., and the 13th U. S. Regulars.
17. The 6th Mo. received nearly all the casualties in the First Brigade whose total loss was 15 killed and 63 wounded. *Battles and Leaders*, III, 471.
18. See note 37, Chapt. II.
19. James Eads of Decatur, corp. in Company A; mustered out with the regiment on June 7, 1865.
20. David B. Landis of Oakley, sgt. in Company G; transferred to Veteran Relief Corps Sept. 15, 1863.
21. Lt. Col. James H. Blood.
22. This was Bear's division commander. At 3 p.m. on Dec. 28, Gen. A. J. Smith assumed command of the Second Division in addition to his own: the First Division. O. R. 1 ser., XVII, pt. 1, p. 628.
23. The 58th Ohio Regt. in Francis P. Blair's First Brigade of the Fourth Division.
24. The Union forces lost 1,776 men (208 killed, 1,005 wounded and 563 captured). *Battles and Leaders*, III, 471.
25. Confederate losses were 63 killed, 134 wounded and 10 missing for a total of 207. *Ibid.*
26. Henry C. Bear and probably his brother, William.
27. Camp Macon at Decatur, Ill.
28. See note 29, Chapt. II.
29. Month was probably Dec.
30. See entry of Dec. 17, 1862.
31. See note 14, Chapt. III.
32. See note 22, Chapt. III.
33. See note 29, Chapt. IV.
34. See note 13, Chapt. II.
35. When the 116th Ill. left Decatur it had a strength of 980 officers and men.
36. This account of explosive bullets was written just a few days after the battle and Bear had little reason to tell the story if it were not true. However, S. H. Lockett, C. S. A., who was the chief engineer of defenses at Vicksburg, denied that the Confederates used or had explosive bullets: "I certainly never heard of anything of the sort, and most surely would have made some use of them if we had had them. . . ." *Battles and Leaders*, III, 491 n. But Bear is supported by Col. Theodore Lyman, a member of Meade's staff, who described explosive bullets in a letter dated May 23, 1864. George R. Agassiz, ed., *Meade's Headquarters* (Boston, 1922), 112. And there was an explosive cartridge for rifles during the Civil War. It was made in .58 caliber, and the name was Gardiner's explosive shell. Berkeley R. Lewis, *Small Arms and Ammunition in the United States Service, 1776-1865* (Washington, 1960), 221.
37. William Grason of Oakley, 1st sgt. of Company A; commissioned 1st lieut. Apr. 28, 1863; became capt. of Company A (upon the death of Gustin Hardy) June 12, 1863; mustered out with the regiment.
38. See note 10, Chapt. II.
39. Memphis had 7 large hospitals for the sick and wounded. Johnson, *Muskets and Medicine*, 254.
40. Probably Joseph Miller, Bear's brother-in-law. He married Anna E. Bear.
41. See note 29, Chapt. II.

VI. Conquest of Arkansas Post

WHILE THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE was steaming back up the Mississippi River after its rebuff at Chickasaw Bluffs, the military control of this force suddenly changed hands. The political soldier, Major General John A. McClernand, arrived at Milliken's Bend on January 3, 1863, and on the following day he assumed command of Sherman's troops, calling them the "Army of the Mississippi."¹

General McClernand, using his strong political influence, had carried on an intrigue at Washington with Secretary Stanton in October of 1862, and gained permission to conduct a campaign of his own against Vicksburg. Gideon Welles knew as early as September of 1862 that McClernand would get this command, but it was a guarded secret. The whole affair was "arranged and directed" by President Lincoln since McClernand was "an old neighbor and friend of his. . . ." "The President thought the opportunity a good one to bring forward his friend McClernand," reported Secretary Welles. And, according to General Sherman, the secret order bore the personal indorsement of the President.

In addition to these factors there was a tendency, in the first part of the war, to distrust men trained at West Point. Acting Rear Admiral David D. Porter, commander of the Mississippi Squadron, spoke in favor of McClernand because he also disliked West Point officers—a fact

he later denied when describing this incident in his memoirs. All of these factors taken together gave the command to McClernand. Although Grant was the commander of the Department of the Tennessee, it was McClernand who was put in charge of "the army which was to go down the [Mississippi] river. . . ." These orders were so confidential that even after the battle of Arkansas Post when these facts were made known by certain newspapers, in the latter part of February 1863, at least one member of Lincoln's cabinet (Bates) was still totally ignorant of the secret orders.² Nevertheless, when the time was ripe, McClernand, using these orders of October 21, 1862, practically stole General Grant's right wing and moved to attack Arkansas Post (Fort Hindman) on January 4. By the nature of McClernand's orders, Grant's hands were tied.

Reorganization was quickly brought about by General McClernand who gave the Thirteenth Army Corps to General George W. Morgan; General Sherman gained command of a new corps, the Fifteenth. The 116th Illinois was still under the command of General Sherman, but the Fifteenth Army Corps contained only two divisions now. To coin a new army—the Army of the Mississippi—General McClernand needed more than one corps, so he merely divided the four divisions into two army corps. Having done this he settled upon Arkansas Post as a way of winning glory for himself. This

Confederate fort was held by about 5,000 men, while McClernand had a force of about 33,000 men plus 40 pieces of artillery.³ He was not taking any chances in his campaign for personal glory in the field.

With Admiral Porter's fleet this large force moved about 250 miles up the Mississippi and sailed into the Arkansas River. On January 10 the troops disembarked and surrounded Fort Hindman. The next day, after a terrific engagement, General Thomas J. Churchhill surrendered the fort. But General McClernand's personal glory was short-lived; on January 12 he received orders from General Grant "to return forthwith to Milliken's Bend with his entire command." Grant's wrath was great and did not cool rapidly. After sending this message Grant boarded a steamboat and personally gave his orders to McClernand when he met the expedition at Napoleon, Arkansas, on January 18. There was no room in the serious business of reducing Vicksburg for a glory-seeking political general. Finally, before Vicksburg fell, Grant removed McClernand from his command on June 18, 1863, because of his insubordination and incompetence. However, by threatening to ruin Grant's reputation by revealing certain things which he claimed to know, McClernand forced Lincoln to reinstate him to the command of the Thirteenth Corps in February, 1864. Then after all McClernand's many efforts to become a leading figure in the Union army, sickness forced him to resign his commission on November 30, 1864. Thus ended the military career of an aspiring politician.⁴

Battle field of Post Arkansas⁵
January the 13, 1863

My Dear and Affectionate Wife, Father,
Mother and Sisters,

I am still permitted to send a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and tollerable well. We have just went through a battle and while it lasted was pretty fierce sure, but we got the better of them as you will see in the papers before you get this. We took the whole

force prisoners with all their Equipment and all. We took from five to ten thousand prisoners.⁶ I would like to tell you the exact positions of the different divisions but I dont think I will have room. I believe the last thing I said in my last letter at the top of the page [was] that we was going up White river.⁷ So we did and got into the Arkansas, went up it from 30 to 40 ms to a fort called post arkansas. We landed last Saturday the 10th. That night or that day rather the gunboats drove them from three of their rifle pits as we advanced. I will draw a small diagram here.⁸

You can see that we had them surrounded so they could not escape. On Saturday evening [January 10] we lay where you see the circle round the cross and where John Peck⁹ was slightly wounded with a shell. The next morning we went to where you see where it says our Regt and laid there till one o'clock when the artillery opened on them for a half hour. Then we made a charge of a half mile to within 150 yards of their Breast works. After we got that close we could keep their artillery silent. We got behind logs, stumps and torn down chimneys &c., we firing all the time. I shot 32 rounds. The Balls came close to my head but did not hit me, only two was hit in our Company: Allen¹⁰ and Peter Walker.¹¹ Allen has since died. There was 5 to 8 killed and 18 to 20 wounded in our Regt.¹² One cant tell how many is killed on either side.¹³ I know I have seen enough killed to do me. It is an awful sight sure. This letter is poorly put togeather.

Captain Iman¹⁴ was killed and Lieut. Taylor.¹⁵ Iman was shot dead on the spot. I am on detail here on the Bank this morning. All the rebles are on board. I hear since I came here that 2,000 escaped Saturday before Steel¹⁶ got around on their left. They are a motly looking crew but they fight like Devills sure. After we got within 150 yds of them, us (that is the Infantry) and the gunboats had full rake of them. They held out from half past one till half past 4. You better believe

will draw a small diagram here

116 our regt

cannon

our line of battle

our canon

our regt

the fort

the line

forces on the extreme right

A drawing by Bear in his letter of January 13, 1863, showing the arrangements of the various units at the battle of Arkansas Post.

I was glad when they histed the white flag for I was tired and Sweted and the 116th was not behind any of the old regt[s] in the charge and I was not behind the 116th sure and I dont think any other man shot more times than I did. I thought of you Darling often when I

was fireing, but I had to do my best you know.¹⁷ I hope I did not hit any person if they are Rebles. We shook hands after the fight. I was hungry and they gave me some bread and meat that was good sure.

[H. C. Bear]

REFERENCES CHAPTER VI

1. O. R., 1 ser., XVII, pt. 1, p. 700.
2. John T. Morse, Jr., ed., *Diary of Gideon Welles* (Boston, 1911), I, 217, 220, 386-387; *Battles and Leaders*, III, 451 n; *Memoirs of Gen. W. T. Sherman* (N. Y., 1891), I, 332; David D. Porter, *Incidents and Anecdotes of the Civil War* (N. Y., 1885), 123; Howard K. Beale, ed., *The Diary of Edward Bates* (Washington, 1933), 283; Washington (D. C.) *National Intelligencer*, Feb. 28, 1863; O. R. 1 ser., XVII, pt. 2, pp. 535-536.
3. *Battles and Leaders*, III, 460.
4. *Ibid.*, III, 453; *Memoirs of Sherman*, I, 332; O. R. 1 ser., XXIV, pt. 1, p. 102; *ibid.*, 1 ser., LII, pt. 1, pp. 439-440; *ibid.*, 1 ser., XXXIV, pt. 2, pp. 134, 400; *Report Adj. Gen. State of Ill. 1861-66* (rev. ed.), I, 176.
5. Arkansas Post or Fort Hindman, Ark.
6. Sherman reported 4,791 prisoners of war were removed by transports from Arkansas Post. O. R., 1 ser., XVII, pt. 1, p. 757. McClermand stretched the count by reporting 7,000 to 10,000 prisoners. *Ibid.*, 699. Bear probably reported what McClermand told his troops.
7. This letter is missing.
8. See illustration.
9. See note 11, Chapt. IV.
10. Elisha Allen of Macon Co., priv. in Company A; died of wounds received at Arkansas Post, Jan. 11, 1863.
11. Peter Walker of Macon Co., priv. in Company A; mustered out with the regiment on June 7, 1865.
12. One report shows 2 officers killed, 3 enlisted men killed and 8 enlisted men wounded for a total of 13 casualties. O. R., 1 ser., XVII, pt. 1, p. 718. The 116th had only 200 men at the battle of Arkansas Post; Co. A, just 30. Wm. Bear to Mary Bear, Arkansas Post, Jan. 12, 1863[3], MS. owned by Joy McArty, Urbana, Ill.
13. The Union loss was 1,061 casualties and the Confederate loss was 60 killed, 75 or 80 wounded, and 4,791 taken prisoner. *Battles and Leaders*, III, 453.
14. Lewis J. Eyman of Harristown, capt. of Co. E; killed Jan. 11, 1863.
15. John S. Taylor of Decatur, 1st lieut. of Company B; killed Jan. 11, 1863.
16. Brig. Gen. Frederick Steele, commanding First Division of 15th Army Corps.
17. Mrs. Bear was a Dunkard (later this faith became known as the Church of the Brethren) and members of this church, like the Quakers, are opposed to war and killing. After the Bears moved to Penfield, Ill., they joined the United Brethren Church, but Henry C. Bear still believed in Universalism and contributed generously to that denomination in Urbana. Interview with Mrs. Sylvia R. Hadden, Urbana, Ill., May 19, 1952.

VII. "A Magnificent Humbug"

GENERAL MCCLERNAND'S forces returned to Milliken's Bend, Louisiana, and General Grant once again became their rightful commander. However, the 116th Illinois Regiment was assigned to a peculiar task. They were sent on down the Mississippi River to help dig on an old canal which, it was thought, would allow Federal gunboats to steam past Vicksburg unharmed. Vicksburg is situated on one of the loops of the Mississippi and a canal cutting off this loop supposedly would allow the Federal fleet to by-pass the guns of Vicksburg.

This fantastic project was initiated by General B. F. Butler from his headquarters at New Orleans on June 6, 1862. On that date he ordered General Thomas Williams, at Baton Rouge, to "send up a regiment or two at once and cut off the neck of land beyond Vicksburg by means of a trench across, . . . making the cut about 4 feet deep and 5 feet wide. The river itself will do the rest for us."¹

General Williams, however, ordered four regiments and some artillery to begin this project. This detail left Baton Rouge on June 20, 1862, for Vicksburg. In five days they arrived at Vicksburg and commenced a round-up of Negroes from the neighboring plantations for the actual work. About 1,200 Negroes were captured and the work was started. But by July 4 General Williams reported that "the labor of making this cut is far greater than estimated by anybody. The soil is hard clay as far as yet excavated (6½ to 7 feet)" He further stated that the current of the river would not wash out the clay.²

When General Butler learned the true facts of this canal project, he ordered General Williams to withdraw his forces and return to Baton Rouge.³ The canal was a failure, since the water level fell faster than the dirt was excavated. Many newspapers declared the project a waste of time, and one in particular called it a

"magnificent humbug, now ten feet above water."⁴

Six months later, however, President Lincoln was again in a mood for solving military problems, and he directed his attention to the unfinished canal. As a result, the General-in-Chief, H. W. Halleck, ordered General Grant on January 25, 1863, to direct his "attention particularly to the canal proposed across the point."⁵ And so the 116th Illinois, having landed across from Vicksburg on January 22, exchanged their rifles for shovels and spades. The Mississippi River at this time was high and still rising when the troops landed. Nevertheless, they started to dig a series of ditches which would form the canal: one at Young's plantation, another at Lake Providence, and the third at Yazoo Pass. It was hard difficult labor and the men worked in shifts. Sherman's two divisions each furnished a detail of five hundred men who worked alternate days on the project. In spite of a great expenditure of energy the project was fruitless, and Grant informed the officials in Washington that there was no wash in the canal nor were there "signs of its enlarging."⁶

By January 31 Grant had come to the conclusion that the canal would never work, but he continued work on it while he searched for another means of eliminating Vicksburg.⁷ In this General Grant was wise. General McClellan had openly opposed military strategy devised by Lincoln and his political generals, but Grant followed to the letter his orders from Washington and proved conclusively what a foolish plan it was.

On March 6 a dam broke and flooded the area where the troops were working.⁸ Then, less than a month later, the Confederate forces relocated their artillery so they could control the canal as Vicksburg had commanded the Mississippi River.⁹ The project succeeded only in killing many troops who died as a result of working in the damp river bottoms. The 116th Illinois lost 58 officers and men while stationed in the swamps at Young's Point, Louisiana.¹⁰ These brave men were laid to rest in the levee since it was the only

available land above water. Among the casualties was Bear's younger brother, William, who died there on March 5, 1863.¹¹ Henry Bear obtained a coffin for his brother and saw that he was decently buried.¹² Years after the Civil War, Bear returned to Young's Point to visit his brother's grave but found that the levee had been entirely washed away and the graves were all gone.¹³

Opposite Side of the River
from Vicksburgh¹⁴
January 26, 1863

My Dear and affectionate Wife and
Friends,

I am again permitted to write a few lines to you again. I sent you a letter about a week ago. I forget the date. This is the forth one since the last fight.

I told you I did not know [what] the object in coming down to this place was. We landed here last Thursday the 22 and have been digging on the ditch that was commenced 8 or ten months ago.¹⁵ I will draw a diagram.¹⁶

* It is from fifteen to sixteen miles from the mouth of the ditch to the other end of it by the river. It is only one mile and an eighth by the ditch. The river has got 3 to 5 feet fall in going the 16 miles and consequently the di[t]ch will have the Same fall. Butler¹⁷ dug it about twelve feet wide and 7 to 9 feet deep. The river got so low it did not run through it. When we landed it did not run in it by two feet and now it runs in it from four to six feet and is still a raising at the rate of a foot and a half in 24 hours. ♪

We are digging it about ten feet wide. The water is in our way since it raised so we can only dig it down to the waters edge. The object is to get a canal through so as to get our gunboats through which we will if the water dont rais[e] so as to drive us out of here before we get it done. After we get it so wide it is expected it will wash out the ballance by running what is called drudge Boats¹⁸ through it.

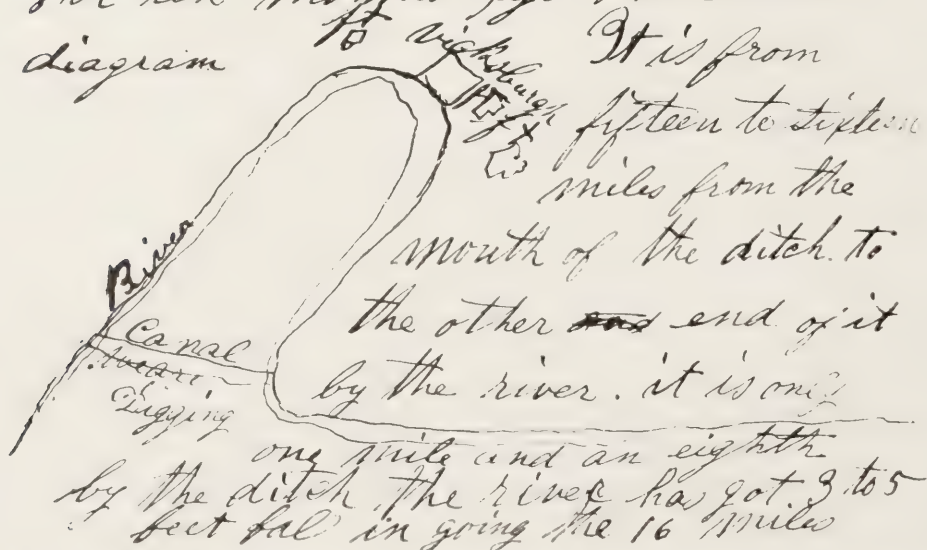
We have to dig by Regt two hours at

Opposite side of the River
from Vicksburg January 26 1863

My Dear and affectionate
Wife and friends. I am again permitted
to write a few lines to you again
I sent you a letter about a week ago
I forget the date this is the fourth
one since the last fight.

I told you I did not know the
object in coming down. ~~the~~ This
place was we landed here last
Thursday the 22 and have been digging
on the ditch that was commenced
for ten months ago. I will draw a
diagram

to right. It is from
fifteen to sixteen
miles from the
mouth of the ditch to
the other ~~and~~ end of it
by the river. it is only
one mile and an eighth
by the ditch. The river has got 3 to 5
feet ~~deeper~~ in going the 16 miles



A page from one of Bear's letters showing the canal which was being dug across the loop of the Mississippi in a vain attempt to by-pass Vicksburg in 1863.

a time. We come on evry six hours. Two Brigades works at a time. It is pretty hard work but I would sooner dig than fight if it will accomplish any thing. It is a Yankee undertaking sure to turn such a mighty River as the Mississippi but it m[a]y be done. It could of been done easy if we had of commenced a month ago befor the River got so high. We can see Vicksburgh plain from here. They can just about reach us with their sollid shot but not I think with their shells. They cant do us much damage. We have got several 12 feet parrot siege guns here to let loose on them if they fire at us. We took a small boat from them the other day loaded with eggs and butter with six prisoners on board.

* This must be a sickly place in the summer at high water.¹⁹ Where we are it is six feet deep. It is not quite as Sickly as in the Yazoo. Still the way we have to camp out it is unhealthy. I have not been in a tent since we came here. Six of us got a gate, laid it down and made a roof with our gum blankets and then spread down a gum blanket and covered over with the other two wollen ones. It is a pretty hard bed but it is the best we can do. It has rained two days since we have been here. It is all most warm enough to go in shirt sleeves all the time. I want to get up north before hot weather comes for it cant help but be awful warm here in the summer.

[H. C. Bear]

Opposite Vicksburg
Saturday the 14 Feb 1863

My Dear Wife,

I received your letter of the 2nd and was surely glad to hear from you, and to hear that you had such a nice little Daughter²⁰ for me. I say again I am glad. I am also glad to hear that you got along so well. I would perhaps rather it would of been a Soldier, but as it is I am perfectly well satisfied. All that troubles me is I cant get home just now to see the Blessed little thing. You may tell it though that it wont be very long till I will see

it. But if such a thing should be that I could not get to see it you must take good Care of it and bring it up as it should be.

I see by the writing that Mary²¹ writ the letter. I hope you have taken good care and not have got up to[o] soon so that you would injure your self. You must not spoil the baby by thinking to[o] mutch of it. It is surely provoking to²² try to write and have to get up to tend to Shellabarger.²³ He is out of his head and wants to put on his coat and all manner of things done. He is no better. William²⁴ is no trouble at all. He lays quiet. I cant see any change in him for the better yet. He cant hardly stand alone at all. I am affraid, (I am affraid) when I send the next letter, you must bear it. It cant be helped I am affraid. I have had part of my sorrow already.²⁵ I am affraid more is to come. He is not in much misery. His lungs is fast melting away. May be there will be a change. I surly hope so. If the Diarhea would only stop he would not be so awful weak. Yesterday I went down to the Boats and spent nearly a dollar getting things for him. I got 25 cts Chees, 15 cts worth apples, 6 eggs (25 cts), 15 cts butter at 50 cts a lb. I could not get any potatoes. They are worth 25 cts a dozen and small at that. Those two Doll[ars] will come good although I cant pass that Maryland bill down here. They would not take it yesterday. Green backs are the only go and small bills at that for change is scarce. Soloman Bowman²⁶ is going to try to get a doz for me to day at the upper landing.²⁷ Lieut Hardy²⁸ was down to the Hospital yesterday. He saw D Miller.²⁹ He says he looks very poor and weak; thinks he will get well. I would like to see him.

There is eight sick ones in this little room and they all are pretty sick sure. I get considerable wried not being altogether well myself. This is a hard Country on on[e]s Lungs. O how I do wish when I wrote again William would be mending. It appears like one could not get well when once sick in the army.

They linger along for a long while.

You must have hopes and you must take care of that babe and give it as many kisses for me as it will conveniently bear. Nothing more but remain your true and affectionate Husband.

H C Bear

[P. S.] There is some talk that this regt will go to Camp Douglas³⁰ to guard prisoners. I hope it is so.

[Young's Point, Louisiana]
[ca. March 1863]³¹

Dear you must not think hard of me for writing such a simple senseless piece to send to you. [This poem is omitted.] You must consider who it is from, and all that's said is meant. I have written so many letters and got none and saw so little that I can't find any thing to write about. I am no poet so you can take all that I have said as so.

I would like to know if the mosquitoes are as bad up there as they are here. I did not sleep last night till three O'clock on account of them.

If I would of had a light last night I think I would of writ a poem on Dixie and mosquitoes sure. I was out of humor at least enough to do it.

Tell Ross³² to write to me and Ed Dunbar.³³ Tell Mary³⁴ to write. Tell every body you see to write. Yes and be sure to write any body and every body. May be if all would write I might perhaps stand some chance of getting a letter. What do you think? (haugh)

Well I will stop my darned foolishness and send this on and have you to pay the Postage. I doubt if it will pay the postage, but here she goes any haugeagh.

Yours as Usual. Yours for Ever.

H C Bear up a gum tree

Opposite Vicksburgh
April the 11, 1863

Ever Dear and Affectionate Wife,

I am again permitted to write to you. Charles Emery³⁵ has arrived. I received

that letter with the line in it. I am well pleased with it. You ought to of seen the goods he brought for the Regt. There was six (4 and 6) mule loads of it. All we were affraid of is that we will have to move before we eat it all up. I received a large box from David Frantz³⁶ that was surely worth having. There was a large lot of potatoes in it (potatoes sell here for 25 cts a Cigar box full) and so they will come very good as we do very Seldom draw potatoes, and never such ones as these. Also two nice hams which is a rarity with us, and a jug of Sorgom Molasses which surely is nice, a thing a Soldier seldom sees, also 4 large Rolls of Butter which is nice and sweet. I have bought considerable butter since we got our pay, for which I paid 50 cts a lb, but never such butter as this, and that you sent me. Dan Bowen³⁷ got also a large box full. W. Hickman³⁸ got two boxes. Nearly every one in our mess have received some thing. We are living fat, and I am affraid some will eat too much—that it will make them sick, a thing not hard to do down here.

Our Regt is on Fatigue duty today digging on the Canal 7 or 8 miles above here, at Miligans Bend. I have not done duty for some time—not since we came back from that march in consequence of a pain and weakness in the small of my back and left knee and leg. It is about the same yet as ever.

I hope it will soon get well for I hate to go moping around. We have not divided all the things that was in my box yet to those named in the letter but we will I suppose this evening when they are all here. I'll bet I will have a good mess of Eggs and potatoes for Supper to night when the boys come back. We have moved twice since pap was here.³⁹ First we moved on the Levee half mile from the old camping ground, then yesterday a mile and a half above on nice ground. I hope we will not move soon again, for it always tears up our beds that we fix up from the ground. The water is now running all over our old Camp. The Levee broke at the corner where it run so swift.

It filled up the bottom very fast after it broke. It is very warm here today. It is getting dry and nice here again. I am sorry to hear that Ross⁴⁰ is still sick. I want him to get well for I want to take some fishing and hunting speers with him yet.

I suppose those Deserters carries a high head up there. If they do it wont be long that they will. If they dont go to their Regts they will be shot or work out the balance of their time in disgrace sure as the sun shines. Those that deserted and took Frenches⁴¹ are flocking in to their Regts like geese. They dread that Proclamation.⁴² I hope that Oakley and the whole traitorous crew, deserters and all will be fetched down here, or sunk or destroyed like Sodom, so as to be remembered no more but in disgrace.

I dispise that hole far more than Vicksburgh or any other place filled with honorable traitors compared to those. I suppose they talk about resisting the Draft. I suppose they would talk about resisting a Huricane in their weakness and blindness, there in that God forsaken place.

The River is still high as ever and still raising. It is tollerable healthy just now in camp. There was a man in Co B by the name of Burk⁴³ that was stabled with a knife so that he died the other day by

a man in the same mess. They was allways good friends before. The murderer was drunk. He has not had his [trial] yet. It will go hard with him for it was murder in the first degree. Burk was a Sergeant⁴⁴ and well liked.

If I felt right well I would write a letter to Mr. Frantz.⁴⁵ You can show him this. We received all the things in a good condition, nothing was disturbed in the Box. We all thank him for his kindness toward us, and also for his kind and Christian admonitions. We know of no other way of repaying him but to stick close to the glorious old Stars and Stripes and never disgrace that revealed Ensign of a mighty people. "We have no feelings of animosity toward a conquered foe. The Brave never has as shown at the fight at the Post."⁴⁶ I hope this Rebellion will soon be crushed. I hope that by some Miraculous Stroke it might be ended, that we might all get back, Wiser if not better men.

I hope when this reaches you, you all may be enjoying (that precious blessing) good health, and a bright prospect of a speedy Peace.

I remain as ever your true and affectionate husband.

Henry C Bear

REFERENCES

CHAPTER VII

1. O. R., 1 ser., XV, 25-26.
2. *Ibid.*, 26-28.
3. *Ibid.*, 31. At least by July 26, 1862, Williams was back at Baton Rouge. *Ibid.*, 33.
4. Article from Grenada (Miss.) *Appeal* reprinted in *Illinois State Journal*, Sept. 1, 1862.
5. O. R., 1 ser., XXIV, pt. 1, p. 10. Grant attributed Lincoln's canal project to his flat-boating days on the Mississippi. *Memoirs of Grant*, I, 446.
6. *Memoirs of Sherman*, I, 333; O. R., 1 ser., XXIV, pt. 1, p. 10.
7. O. R., 1 ser., XXIV, pt. 1, p. 10.
8. *Ibid.*, 19.
9. *Ibid.*, 26.
10. Compiled from *Report Adj. Gen. State of Ill.*, VI, 248-268.
11. See note 35, Chapt. II.
12. Stewart, ed., *Hist. Champaign Co.*, II, 733.
13. Interview with Mrs. Hadden, Urbana, Ill., May 11, 1952; see also *Report Adj. Gen. State of Ill.*, VI, 269.
14. Most of the time Bear was camped near Young's Point, La.

15. About six months previously.
16. See illustration.
17. Gen. B. F. Butler.
18. Bear meant a dredge boat.
19. See intro. to Chapt. VII.
20. She was named Eugenia C.
21. Mary Bear, his sister. Evidently, his wife was staying with the Bears when her baby was born.
22. The word "to" is repeated.
23. Joseph L. Shellabarger of Decatur, sgt. in Company A; promoted to 2nd lieut. Apr. 20, 1863; promoted to 1st lieut. June 12, 1863; mustered out with the regiment.
24. See note 35, Chapt. II.
25. Bear probably refers to the death of his mother which occurred in 1863. *Port. and Biog. Album Champaign Co.*, 694.
26. See note 20, Chapt. III.
27. Bear refers to potatoes.
28. Gustin F. Hardy of Decatur, 2nd lieut. of Company A; promoted Apr. 20, 1863 to capt.; died June 12, 1863, from wounds received at Vicksburg.
29. See note 16, Chapt. II.
30. Camp Douglas was located in Chicago at 34th and Cottage Grove. By Aug. 28, 1861, 1,300 men were there, and this was the start of the Douglas Brigade. It served not only as a training ground but also as a prisoner-of-war camp. Its thin board stockade often enclosed 10,000 Confederates. *Chicago Daily Tribune*, Aug. 29, 1861; Lloyd Lewis and Henry Justin Smith, *Chicago: The History of Its Reputation* (N. Y., 1929), 91.
31. It cannot be dated exactly, but he knew about the birth of his daughter and had not yet moved out to attack Vicksburg.
32. See note 29, Chapt. II.
33. Edward Dunbar of Oakley, a neighbor.
34. See note 21, above.
35. Charles F. Emery of Maroa, a wagoner in Company D; promoted to quartermaster Mar. 2, 1863; mustered out Sept. 20, 1865.
36. David Frantz of Oakley, a farmer and at one time a "resident minister" of the Church of the Brethren (Dunkard) at Oakley.
37. See note 17, Chapt. II.
38. See note 18, Chapt. II.
39. His father, David Bear. He probably went down to the 116th when he learned of his other son's death.
40. See note 29, Chapt. II.
41. French leave, a slang term meaning to quit one's post of duty without permission.
42. Congress passed an act Mar. 3, 1863, which provided that deserters could be shot without approval of the president as was formerly the case. It enabled the death sentence to be carried out with only the approval of the commanding general in the field. This act also directed the president to issue a proclamation setting forth this change in law and directing deserters to return to their regiments or suffer the consequences of the new act. *U. S. Statutes at Large*, 37th Cong., 3rd sess., Chapt. LXXV, Sec. 21 and 26 (pp. 735-736).
43. Patrick Burke of Decatur, priv. in Company B; died at Young's Point, La., Apr. 8, 1863.
44. He was not listed as sgt.
45. See note 36, above.
46. Bear is probably quoting something he heard a general—perhaps McClelland—say after the battle of Arkansas Post.

VIII. "They Are Bound

To Come Under"

THE MONOTONY OF *digging on the canal* was broken on March 19, 1863, when the 6th Missouri and 116th Illinois regiments embarked under the leadership of their brigade commander, Colonel Giles A. Smith, for an expedition up Steele's Bayou, Black Bayou, and Deer Creek. The purpose of their mission was to see that Admiral Porter's fleet would not be bottled up by the Confederate forces who were felling trees and sinking barges in the water in order to trap the upper fleet of the Union forces. Colonel Smith freed the fleet and returned to Young's Point, Louisiana, on March 27. The casualties incurred as a result of these slight skirmishes with the enemy were one man killed and three wounded.¹

After this expedition the troops remained inactive at Young's Point while General Grant was preparing to run the Confederate batteries at Vicksburg and thus get his gunboats and empty transports below the fortifications for an assault against this Confederate bastion from the south. This daring plan worked and seven gunboats with three transports sneaked past under the cover of darkness on April 16-17, 1863.² This proved to be much better strategy than the canal, and Grant began collecting his forces for a second assault on Vicksburg.

During the last days of April, Grant moved his troops across into Louisiana and

marched them south past Vicksburg to the waiting troop transports below. Once aboard they were carried across the Mississippi River for an attack upon the outlying fortifications to the south of Vicksburg. They disembarked at Bruinsburg and moved on to Port Gibson.³ The 116th Illinois was again marching with General Sherman's Fifteenth Army Corps while it fought its way to Vicksburg by way of Grand Gulf, Champion's Hill, and Big Black River Bridge. Then started the desperate fighting for the reduction of Vicksburg. The 116th formed into line of battle at 5 p.m. on May 18 and on the following day they advanced under heavy fire against the stubborn defenders of Vicksburg. Colonel Tupper was wounded while leading his 116th to the charge, and he and the regiment were described as having been "conspicuous for their gallantry throughout."⁴

It was during this savage fighting on May 19 that Henry C. Bear was severely wounded in the right side.⁵ He was advancing down a slight hill into the fire of the enemy when the flag bearer of Company A, Sam Baty, was killed by a shell burst. Bear coming up behind him grabbed what was left of the colors and started to advance when he too was shot. He was removed from the line and carried to the rear where an old barn was serving as an emergency hospital. Here bedlam reigned supreme. There were shrieks and

cries of pain and agony as surgeons amputated limbs without the benefit of anesthesia. The barn took on the appearance of a slaughterhouse as the blood flowed freely.⁶

From this makeshift hospital Bear was transferred to the Van Buren General Hospital.⁷ It was a large establishment located at the foot of Milliken's Bend, and at this time had "seventeen hundred patients, mostly convalescents and slightly wounded."⁸ Here he remained until the hospital was closed on August 20, 1863.⁹ These were lonely days for Bear. He had lost dear friends, was wounded and far from home, but his courage never failed him. Neither did he lose his faith in the cause of the Union, and on July 4, 1863, this faith was justified when Vicksburg surrendered after a long siege. Four days later Port Hudson also capitulated, and the Mississippi River was open and firmly held now by the Union forces. The victory had been purchased with the many "red badges of courage" won by men like Bear on the battlefield.

Near Vicksburg
April the 24, 1863

My Dear Wife,

You must Excuse me for writing with a lead pencil. Our whole Regt is on picket on the Levee in front of Vicksburg. We had a long hot walk of it here. It is some six miles from our camp to this post of ours the way we come. We are opposite the lowermost Batteries of Vicksburg. It is awful warm. My shirt is yet perfectly wet . . . with swett. As we came down the levee I saw lots of dewberries that was nearly ripe. I wish they was altogeather Ripe. I would take a fill of them for the[re] are plenty.

We from here can see the different fortified hills very plain. It seems as though a place as strongly fortified as this is, no army could ever take it. But it will be tried before three weeks. We will whip them or they will us. It will be a hard fight. They will never give it up otherwise!

We are under marching orders. I suppose we will go around in below Warington¹⁰ and try and get a foothold and then get in the rear of them which will certainly bring on a fight. I do hope we will whip them this time. We expect a hard and bloody fight. But I think those in the Right will come out best and I know that is us. Dear if we get in below this place you must not get uneasy if you dont get any mail for some time, for I dont see how it can get throug without a heap of trouble for a while. I hope we may take them all prisoners without mutch of a fight. I am well and hope to get through safe. Dan Bowen¹¹ was up to Miligans Bend¹² to see John¹³ and the rest in the Eighth Regt.¹⁴ He came back, took a chill and has since a severe fever. The Doct[or] says he has symptoms of the typhoid fever. The boys in the 8[th] was all well. I saw Jo Rock,¹⁵ he was fat as a fool.

There was six or seven Transports run by the Batteries night before last. They all got through safe but one, the Tigress (the one we came from Cairo to Memphis on). It got safe till passing the battery right across from where I am now writing. It was then sunk. It is on fire below. We can see it. Joseph Forest¹⁶ of the Eight[h] Regt went through as a Pilot. I forget the name of the Boat but it got throug safe. I never heard such a terrible roar as did the Reble artillery as the boats [p]assed the Batteries. I dont see why they did not sink all of them. We did not know till late that we could run a transport past the batteries.

I remain as ever your true and affectionate Husband

H C Bear

On the Rear of Vicksburg
May 21, 1863

My Dear Wife

As I did not get to tell you much about the fight in the other sheet I will tell you more fully in this. We have drove them from Raymond, where John Bowen¹⁷ was

severly wounded in the head, and from Jackson. We fought them at the Black river Bridge. We drove them evrywhere till they got within their immense fortifications at Vicksburgh.

* General Grant formed his line of Battle day before yesterday at two O'cl along the whole line. Steel[e's] Division¹⁸ on the Extreme Right, Blairs (ours) next.¹⁹ Our Regt was in front. We made a charge and a dear charge it was. Out of 31 in our Company 13 has been hit. Several two or three times. Sam Baty²⁰ the flag Bearer of our Com[pany] was killed. Lieut Hardy²¹ severly wounded above and below the knee. Dan Bowen²² had his big toe mashed by a ball. I am hit in the side. The ball went in through where the ribs joins and I suppose lodged there. It is not painful. I can go around, give water to the boys and am quite lively and am very thankful it is no worse. It may prove worse than I think as the Ball is still in there yet but I hope not.

Just leave out in care of Capt Brown [when addressing letters to me.]

Lieut Col Boyd²³ is shot through the lungs (I suppose mortal). 60 or 70 was hit in the Regt out of (240).²⁴ Some of the boys went clear to the brest works but could not get over. It was awful. I dont want to see an other such a time. It was fallen timber for 500 yds. I fell 5 times going down the first hill on account of my lame leg catchin in the brush. I dont see how any escaped at all for the bullets was flying thick as hail. We have been fighting them ever since. We have got them completely hemed in so they cant possibly get out. If we cant storm them we can starve them out, at least we have got communication open by hains Bluff.²⁵ So we can get our provision[s]. Altogether in the fights here we have taken about 13,000 prisoners and 124 canon. They are bound to come under. I g[u]ess us wounded will get furlows to go home after we take this place. I hope they will. I would like to see you. I could tell you more fully about being a Soldier than I can on paper.*

Keep in good spirits, all will be right

yet. We are giving them a heavy blow here.

Yours forever

Henry C Bear

U. S. Hospital [Milliken's] Bend
June the 17th 1863

Mrs. Miller,²⁶

Dear Madam,

I received your letter a few days ago. I was glad to hear from you and home. You requested me to try and find Daniel's²⁷ things. I am afraid I can be of little Service to you in this case. But I will try and do what I can.

I wish I could send evry thing that Daniel had home to you. I know it would be a great relief to have some thing by which to remember him by. Daniel Bowen²⁸ went up to the Hospital 3 ½ ms above where we was then encamped to get Daniels things but failed. They said they had them all put together, and sent to Memphis, which I Expect is the case.

I was wa[i]ting on William at the Same time he was buried so that I did not get up to see Daniel but once. That was near two weeks before he died.

I do not know who had charge at the Hospital at that time and if he should be found he would hardly know any thing about it, there being so many. The rule or custom or law is to send deceased soldiers things home. I think they will all come yet. All I know is what Dan Bowen told me and a few others. He was when sick just like he was allways, nothing to say and never complain[ed].

He was buried as decent as circumstances would permit. I dont think he drewed any more clothes than what he drewed at first. If I can find any thing that belonged to him I will surely send it to you. Daniel Bowen knows more about Daniel than what I do. When I go to the Regt I will see Dan about it.

He died very easy, as nearly all do that dies with the Diarhea. He died while on

the (mug) and so easy they hardly knowed that he was gone.

I suppose you was told this before. I am getting along first rate with my wound. I will soon be able to go at them again. May be I will help to take Vicksburgh yet.

I was in hopes I would get home to see you all before my wound got well but, I hardly think I will now. I am one of these kind that dont soon give up, and may be I will get home yet.

I hope this may find you all well. I hope to send the new[s] of the fall of Vicksburg in my next letter home. I dont think they can hold out much longer.

We have some 300 Canon bearing on them, and have them entirely surrounded so that they cant escape at all, that is certain. I will do all I can for you. I am Respectfully

Yours &c

H. C Bear

Wednesday July the 8th 1863
U. S. Hospital Millikens Bend

My Dear little Woman,

I again Seat myself to write to you. I am feeling tollerably well now. I have as yet received no news from you. I am entirely out of paper and Envelopes. I was laying on my Back on my Cot. I said I would give a dime for an Envelope and a Sheet of paper. One of the boys spoke up and said he could let me have this. [That] is the way I got this.

Dear, Vicksburg is ours. I am glad and I know you are too. They gave up on the morning of the 4 of July, which makes that day doubly memorably. I have not learned much of the particulars.

The Reble loss since Grant started to go in the rear and the taking of the Place, and what Joe Johns[t]on²⁹ lost in the fight the other day (which was (7000) prisoners) I dont know how many killed and wounded.³⁰ Will not be far from Eighty five thousand men. I mean with what we took at the fall of Port Hudson.

(They say we took from 15,000 to 20,000 there.) Grant intended to paroll these prisoners, but they to a man wont take it. They would rather go North and take the Oath of Allegiance and keep out of the war. [But Grant did parole the Confederates as prisoners of war, nevertheless.]

Dear I hope to be at home by Christmas. We have given the Rebles a terrible blow here in the West. I am proud that I am one of the Army of the Mississippi.³¹

Our whole Army (with the Exception of Logans Division which is now guarding Vicks[bur]g) is now after Joh[n]ston, and I think old Grant will tetotally annihilate that ill begotten Reble. I may be mistaken but I dont think I am that peace will be declared before long. I know I wouldnt be mad and I believe you would be glad, would you not?

Our Regt has drawn two month pay. I was not there so I did not get any. I have only \$ 1 ½ so I would like to have some sent.

I was detailed here yesterday as a nerse. I may stay a considerable time in that capacity. You can send to me saf[e]ly in a letter four or five Dols. If I have my health, and if I havent Either I would rather stay here. One has a good bed, well cooked victuals and allways in the dry. I will stay if I can. I got Enough of that terrible march around by Grand Gulf. I will tell you more about it when I get home. I got a big mess of black berries yesterday but I paid for it though. It was so awful hot I darne near smothered and was I glad to get back. What do you think duck, dont you think I was a hog? I have eat[en] three one dollar cans of Oysters since I have been here.³² Thats pretty steep to be in Hospital. I had to smuggle it in and eat them on the Sly [in] order [to] keep in good Spirits. There is a better time coming soon. Oh, how I would like to hear from you. It is just two months [since the] 8 of May.

Yours forever

H C Bear

REFERENCES

CHAPTER VIII

1. O. R., 1 ser., XXIV, pt. 1, pp. 438-440.
2. *Ibid.*, 30.
3. *Ibid.*, 34.
4. *Ibid.*, pt. 2, pp. 263-265.
5. Army discharge of Henry C. Bear. Hadden Papers.
6. Interview with Mrs. Hadden, Urbana, Ill., May 11, 1952.
7. Stewart, ed., *Hist. Champaign Co.*, II, 733.
8. H. W. Fogle to Dr. J. S. Newberry, Sanitary Steamer *Dunleith*, Cairo, Ill., June 12, 1863, in John Strong Newberry, *The U. S. Sanitary Commission* (Cleveland, 1871), 99-100.
9. Stewart, ed., *Hist. Champaign Co.*, II, 733.
10. Warrenton, Miss., about six miles below Vicksburg.
11. See note 17, Chapt. II.
12. Milliken's Bend.
13. See note 10, Chapt. II.
14. The 8th Ill. Inf. Regt.; on Apr. 12, 1863, it arrived at Milliken's Bend for the assault upon Vicksburg and moved toward this battle on Apr. 25; many of its members were from Decatur and surrounding area. *Report Adj. Gen. State of Ill.*, I, 430.
15. Joseph H. Rock of Decatur, priv. in Company A, 8th Ill. Inf.; mustered out May 4, 1866.
16. Joseph Forrest of Decatur, priv. in Company A, 8th Ill. Inf.; re-enlisted Dec. 5, 1863, promoted sgt. and discharged July 10, 1865.
17. John S. Bowen, maj. gen. C. S. A., in command of Bowen's Div.; died at Raymond, Miss., July 16, 1863.
18. First Division, Fifteenth Army Corps.
19. Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps.
20. Samuel Baty of Decatur, corp. in Company A; killed at Vicksburg, May 19, 1863.
21. See note 28, Chapt. VII.
22. See note 17, Chapt. II.
23. James P. Boyd of Decatur, lt. col. of 116th; resigned Jan. 24, 1864.
24. Casualties of 116th on May 19, 1863, were 6 killed, 64 wounded and 1 missing; total, 71. O. R., 1 ser., XXIV, pt. 2, p. 159.
25. Haynes's Bluff, above Vicksburg on the Yazoo River.
26. Mrs. Daniel Miller, Sr., of near Cerro Gordo. ALS owned by Mrs. Frank E. Richart, Urbana, Ill.
27. Daniel Miller, see note 16, Chapt. II.
28. See note 17, Chapt. II.
29. Joseph E. Johnston, gen. C. S. A.; paroled May 2, 1865.
30. Confederate losses at Vicksburg from May 1 to July 4, 1863, were about 1,260 killed, 3,572 wounded and 33,718 captured; total, 38,550. *Battles and Leaders*, III, 550.
31. Bear was not in the Army of the Mississippi at this time. He was in Grant's Army of the Tennessee. Only under McClelland had he been in the "Army of the Mississippi" at Arkansas Post.
32. He never lost his taste for oysters, and they remained one of his favorite foods. Interview with Mrs. Hadden, Urbana, Ill., May 19, 1952.

IX. Waiting the War Out

ALTHOUGH BEAR HAD been optimistic in thinking that he would soon re-join his regiment and leave his bed in Van Buren General Hospital, this return to duty never came. He was wounded more severely than he at first imagined, and try as they might, the surgeons could not locate the buried bullet. In fact, Bear carried the bullet until he died. But since there was no improvement in his condition at this time, he was transferred to an army hospital at Keokuk, Iowa, when Van Buren General Hospital was closed on August 20, 1863.¹

From internal evidence in his letter of September 7 it would seem that he arrived at Keokuk about the first day of September. It was a long trip from Milliken's Bend to Keokuk, but the entire journey was probably made on board a hospital steamer plying its way slowly up the Mississippi River. Most of the sick and wounded were taken to Keokuk in this manner. Steamers carried the patients more carefully and comfortably than the bouncing railroad cars, and as a result several large hospitals were located at places easily accessible by water.

At Keokuk, Bear was assigned to the Estes House Hospital² which was to be

his home for nearly two years. It was the largest of five hospitals established at Keokuk. Originally built in 1857 as a magnificent hotel it was converted into an army hospital in 1862 to care for the "hundreds of wounded men, brought by steamboat from the southern battle fields."³ The Estes House was five stories high and contained 200 rooms. Into these "spacious and airy rooms" the army placed over 650 beds and moved in a staff of doctors, nurses, and guards.⁴ Bear found himself assigned to the fourth floor⁵ where he could observe the activity of the town, for the Estes House was in the very center of Keokuk.

Even though his quarters were fine and the food was, as he expressed it, "the best victuals in the world,"⁶ Bear was sick and lonely. Perhaps for this reason he turned to poetry to express his feelings and to follow General Grant's difficult campaigns of 1864. When Lincoln was assassinated, Bear was very deeply moved with sadness and expressed pity for the nation without its leader. Finally, with the bullet still unextracted but with his health regained, Bear was discharged from the army at Keokuk on June 1, 1865.⁷ The war was over and he returned to his wife and baby at Oakley, Illinois.

Keokuk, Iowa
Sept 7th [1863]

My Dear,

I am still lingering along. When I came here I could go down on the street from the fourth story, but I cannot do it now nor have I for four or five days. I am pretty Sallow and Slim just now, only my stomache and bowels. They are swelled and [that] is where I have my misery. My blood runs a little faster all the time than it ought. The best victuals in the world I cant eat. I cant eat boiled milk and bread. They make thickened milk for me. I sometimes can eat a small potato, but often I go without any thing. I believe I could eat a bout four Oysters just now. My Liver is awfully out of fix. I am taking medicine regular and some pretty strong at that. I think and hope I will soon get all right again. I want to see this Rebellion crushed, and the Cop[p]erheads well hated before I go up. They are giving furlows now and I will have to wait till my turn comes. I do not know how long that will be, perhaps not long.

Dear, when I tell you how I feel and am getting along, if it is ever so bad, you must not get uneasy or fretful. If I thought you would I dont hardly think I would tell you. You know we must take things as they come, and not as we would like to have it. You know my un-failing faith in Universalism.⁸

* Some says it is a good doctrin to live by but not to die by. I do know it was my main stay where bullets and shell flew as thick as hail, and it is my main stay now in sickness. If I should not be allowed to help you bring up that little Eugenia I want you to bring her up right, teach her what is right while she is young, and of all things [d]ont try to scare her with that horrible place⁹ that only a troubled Imagination can picture, which cannot in reality exist—dont never for the sake of its Father. How prejudiced the World is, and how they hang to old heathen notions. It will all be right in due time. Dear from what I have said you must not think that I am agoing to die just now—not at all.

There is no harm in what I have said even if I should live till I was seventy five years old,¹⁰ but life is uncertain in health and is a little more so in Sickness. ¶

I have a good bed here and am well cared for. I cant complain. If I should really get dangerous so there was but little hopes of getting up I will surely send for you. You need not fear.

I will close this by asking you to take all things calm and as a brave Woman looking with hope to the future. Your true and Affectionate Husband for ever.

H. C Bear

On the 9th of March 1864, Grant received his commission as lieutenant general and preparations were begun for the campaigns of 1864.¹¹ On May 4 the Army of the Potomac started its campaign by crossing the Rapidan River and traveling about twelve miles into the wilderness. On the following day the advance corps of Major General G. K. Warren "met and engaged the enemy outside his intrenchments near Mine Run." The fighting raged all day and the rest of the troops were hurriedly brought up to re-enforce Warren. Action was renewed by Grant on May 6 and continued until darkness broke off the fighting. On the morning of the 7th it was learned that the Confederate troops had been withdrawn to their fixed positions. Thus, the terrible battle of the Wilderness ended and Grant pushed on toward Spotsylvania Court House during the night of May 7. The following day General Warren again met the enemy and fighting was renewed. From the 13th to the 18th of May Grant maneuvered his forces and waited for re-enforcements from Washington. Then fighting was resumed on the 19th and Grant moved out toward North Anna.¹²

These were the bloody battles which inspired Bear to write the following poem. The Union losses were extremely heavy. And the total number of Union casualties for the battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania was 36,065 men killed, wounded, captured, or missing.¹³ Bear

knew the horrors of battle and he could picture the bloody fighting that was going on far away in Virginia, and yet he did not seem to be bothered by the slaughter. He only hoped that Grant would be able to march victoriously into Richmond.

Keokuk Sunday May 22, 1864

It seems I hear the din of battle
On Virginias barren Shore
Where the hosts of freedom gather
In their power and might once more
To battle for their flag and Country
And to end foul treasons Reign
In this now unhapy Country
And bring blooming peace again

It seems I hear Grant give command
To move on their works again
Quickly move the columns forward
Now is sounding along the plain
Grant is in the Saddle now
His sword unsheathed is waving high
And vows by all that's high and true
That treason now shall quickly die,
T'is true I hear the cannons thunder
Now the blood in streamlets flow
But the traitors must come under
For Brave Grant is fighting now
Long and fierce the battle rages
And thicker flies the leaden rain
Till the dead and lifeless corpses
Lay in heaps upon the plain

Long they fought but neither wavered
Now they cease to draw a breath
Soon the[y]'ll meet with fresh troops gathered
And again commence the work of death
Then will tell the future story
Of revolving fortunes wheel
If we yet will shine in glory
Or be crushed by treasons heel

Bruin

[Keokuk, Iowa]¹⁴

Monday Morning Jan 2nd 1865

Dear it is quite pleasant this morning.
I am feeling pretty good. Dr. says Lizzy¹⁵
has not got the Small pox, if she has, she
still stays in her room.

Tell me all the news. And remember
your true and affectionate husband.

H. C. Bear

U. S. General Hospital

Keokuk, Iowa

April Friday the 14th A. D. 1865

My Dear Wife,

We are having a big time today.¹⁶ Evry thing is going off nicely, and peaceably. They formed in procession at half past one O'cl, paraded the Streets until a few minutes ago. They are now making speeches on the Street, but I got too tired and my feet hurt me too bad to stand it any longer, and I concluded to go to the Ward and write to you a while. There are more people on the Streets today than I ever saw before in Keokuk.

There was a large procession of Negroes out, both of men and women, and also a wagon load of black babies in the Rear. They had old Jeff in Effigy with a rope around his neck with letters on his breast, ("We'll hang Jeff Davis on a Sour apple tree.") The whole thing was nice and orderly. If I had not got so tired and could have got up close to the Stand I would have stayed and heard Gen'rl Curtis¹⁷ make a Speech. He says the¹⁸ war is over and the last battle is fought. There is quite a number of Speakers besides Curtis that will speak today and tonight. It begins to look very much like rain. It is very cloudy. There is to be a general illumination and display of fireworks tonight. I fear if it rains it will Spoil our fun. Evry window in this house that is on Main and fifth Streets will be lighted up by eight candles each.¹⁹

After the Sport, Eight O clock, P. M.
Friday

Dear you may think it quite expensive when I tell you that I am writing by the light of Sixteen Candles, which are in the two windows in the Dining-Room. That is the case. There is one hundred and twenty windows in this house lighted up by eight candles each, making nine hundred and sixty candles burning now. It is the case with all the windows all along Main Street and a great deal on others.

We had a magnificent display of *fire works*, having used up over five hundred dollars worth of the Combustibles. We hanged Old Jeff in Effigy after singing "on a Sour apple tree and John Brown." He was still hanging when I left the Street.

I wish you had been here. It was all a grand sight. I really believe there was more people out tonight than what there was today, a thing I thought hardly possible by the immense crowd this afternoon.

It was very windy about sundown, blowing the dust in big clouds, filling hair, eyes, nose and ears full of miniature sand stones, making the fare part of the evening quite disagreeable, but later it calmed, and a person then could enjoy the sights.

About the great news that the Citizens made such a blow about, was but very little to a soldier—only an order from the Government that there would be no more drafting.²⁰ They may call it good news but I would much rather hear of all the armies of the Rebellion being captured or peace being agreed upon, or an order, that we all would be sent home shortly. Such news as that I would term good news. But all this we can expect now shortly anyhow. I would not be any surprised to hear any moment that Sherman had Johns[t]on²¹ cornered or captured.

The cannon fired over a hundred and fifty rounds today. I did not go near, as it jars my side too much. It has commenced raining.

The Bugle has sounded and they have put all my light out but one, I will close for tonight. Good night.

Saturday morning. [April 15, 1865]

Horrible News! Oh! the deep gloom! the utter depression of the Soul, and chill-

ing thought that the Nations pride, a Race's Redeemer, has perished at the hands of a dark and cursed Desperado and Assassin! But such is the tenure of a Dispatch just received.

Lincoln & Seward beset by Ruffins. The first shot through the head and died this morning. Seward, having his throat cut but still is living. A still later dispatch says there is sleight hopes for his recovery. Oh if it only could be false, but I fear that it is only too true that Lincoln is dead.

Wo! to the leaders of this Rebellion if true; Speedy and sure will be their doom. Just this moment I am told that it is confirmed and is Official from Stanton that Lincoln died at Seven o'cl this morning. The City is in deep mourning, and many are the eyes that are flooded with tears. Evry one seems paralyzed, Shocked and horrified. Pen cannot write, nor tongue cannot tell the deep feelings, the sickening thought at the loss the Country has sustained.

The deep, low mutterings of an enraged host can be plainly heard breathing out revenge and threatening against the foul Rebels and their friends wherever they may be. Let sympathisers Stand from under henceforth.

I would not like to be a rebel and fall into the union soldiers hands henceforth. The blood of a hundred thousand of the cursed and hell born Rebels, and their allies could not compensate us for our great loss.

It will go hard with them now! While Lincoln was President, they could expect mercy but none now. I cannot write more. I will close.

Your true husband in deep mourning,

H C Bear

REFERENCES

CHAPTER IX

1. Stewart, ed., *Hist. Champaign Co.*, II, 733.
2. Bear gave the street address as Main and Fifth, and this was the location of the Estes House Hospital. See Frederic C. Smith, "The Estes House Hospital," *The Palimpsest*, X, 350 (Sept., 1929).
3. *Ibid.*, 341.
4. *Ibid.*, 342, 344, 345.
5. See entry of Sept. 7, 1863.
6. See *ibid.*
7. Army discharge. Hadden Papers.
8. Those who believe in the philosophy of Universalism insist that all of mankind will finally be saved.
9. Hell.
10. Bear actually outlived this estimate by 13 years. He was 88 years old at his death in 1927.
11. *Battles and Leaders*, IV, 97.
12. *Ibid.*, IV, 145-146. This is an extract of Grant's report dated July 22, 1865.
13. *Ibid.*, IV, 182.
14. This is a fragment of a letter to his wife. The previous pages are lost.
15. Bear related to Mrs. Sylvia R. Hadden how the smallpox had struck in Keokuk, and even some of the patients in the hospital had contracted the dreaded disease. Prior to this letter, Mrs. Bear and her little girl, who had never seen her father, went by train from Cerro Gordo to Keokuk to visit him. While on the train a person sitting opposite Mrs. Bear was thought to have had the smallpox. It is possible that this person was the Lizzy referred to above. Interview with Mrs. Hadden, Urbana, Ill., May 11, 1952.
16. The cause for this celebration was the official bulletin from Sec. Edwin M. Stanton on Apr. 13, 1865, announcing his order to Gen. Dix "to stop all drafting and recruiting in the loyal States." *Chicago Daily Tribune*, Apr. 14, 1865.
17. Maj. Gen. Samuel Ryan Curtis, a former mayor of Keokuk and at this time the commander of the Dept. of the Northwest with headquarters at Milwaukee. See Ruth A. Gallaher, "Samuel Ryan Curtis," *Iowa Jour. of History and Politics*, XXV, 331-358 (July, 1927).
18. The word "this" appears after the word "the" and has been omitted.
19. This was the Estes House Hotel converted into a hospital.
20. See note 16, above.
21. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, C. S. A. See note 29, Chapt. VIII.



X. After the War

AFTER BEAR WAS shot at Vicksburg he lost touch with his regiment, but the 116th Illinois merely closed its depleted ranks again and started on another long hard campaign. These brave men, whose regiment has received small recognition, were never on detached service. Instead, they followed General Sherman into battle again and again: Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain were the first big fights after they left Vicksburg. Their next move was a hard march to Knoxville, Tennessee, only to retrace their steps and establish winter quarters at Larkinsville, Alabama, on January 9, 1864.

The 116th was always with the Army of the Tennessee, and when it again moved out in May it engaged the enemy at Resaca, Georgia, and pushed farther into the State where the fierce battles of Dallas, Big Shanty, Kenesaw Mountain, Stone Mountain, and Atlanta were fought. After these desperate struggles the 116th moved with Sherman on his famous march to the sea and then north to Washington, D. C. There they participated in the Grand Review for President Johnson and were mustered out of service on June 7, 1865.¹

The men entrained at Washington for the long awaited return home and arrived in Springfield, Illinois, on June 15, 1865. It was a happy group of men who stepped

off the train, but few observers would have recognized this group as the same exuberant regiment, 980 strong, which had left Decatur on November 8, 1862. Disease and bullets had shrunk the outfit to a mere skeleton. Only 339 veterans remained to muster around their colors.² They had left their wounded and sick in hospitals all over the South and the North. Disease alone had killed 212 of their number.³ Only fourteen of Illinois' one hundred and fifty active infantry regiments suffered more casualties than did the 116th Regiment.⁴ The soft low notes of taps had sounded many many times for these brave men who had been Bear's comrades.

Bear had been more fortunate than these, and he returned to Oakley and resumed his former occupation—farming. His father, David Bear, died the following year, and gradually his close ties with Macon County grew weaker.⁵ Having discovered a good piece of farm land near Penfield in Champaign County, he moved there in the spring of 1869.⁶ Evidently Bear had saved carefully his army pay and bounties for this very purpose, and he arranged to pay for these eighty acres of land in three installments. The total price asked was \$750 and was to be paid in yearly installments of \$250, plus eight per cent interest.⁷ A few months later, however, on December 14, 1869, he decided to

obtain full title to his farm, and he paid a cash settlement to the owner totaling \$1,000.⁸

Bear now owned his own farm in Compromise Township, but he had little money left after this cash settlement for full title. The following year he wrote to his old friend "Ed." Obenchain that they had been "keeping house for some time on a quarter."⁹ And when Christmas came that year he had to admit that he was even "too poor to have oysters or turkey this year."¹⁰ Only Bear's trusty rifle kept the family well fed. His wife was thankful for this skill and wrote on one occasion that he had killed seventeen prairie chickens which "about keeps us in meat."¹¹ Every-time ducks, geese or brants flew over his house Bear was on hand to replenish the larder.¹²

It took courage to pioneer in this new section, and Bear had plenty of that. To pay his taxes and other expenses which exceeded his farm income, he killed ducks for commercial market.¹³ He also ran a trap line in the winter in order to sell pelts.¹⁴ While others were losing their farms in the 1870's, Bear just worked harder and hunted more and farther. For several winters he left his wife and children at home and walked to the Illinois River to hunt and trap. Before he left he always plowed a series of furrows around the house as a precaution against prairie fires.¹⁵

From the time that Bear moved to Compromise Township in 1869 he constantly begged his old friend, Edward Obenchain, to sell his farm at Cerro Gordo and join him near Penfield. Obenchain finally yielded, sold his farm, and purchased land near Bear. Gradually, these two men conquered the tough prairie grass and made farming a profitable venture. In 1877 Bear started to buy lots in Penfield and expand his land holdings.¹⁶ The next step came in April of 1884 when he and Obenchain purchased a large lot in Penfield and became partners.¹⁷ In the fall of the next year Bear quit farming and moved to Penfield in order to engage in the grain business.¹⁸ The firm of Bear & Obenchain

continued until 1894 at which time Bear bought out his old friend.¹⁹

This transaction was prompted by the marriage of his daughter, Mary M., to Gawin W. Hadden. The son-in-law now became a partner with Bear and they bought more farming land and enlarged their grain elevator business.²⁰ Soon they owned grain elevators at both Penfield and Gerald with a total capacity of 51,000 bushels.²¹ Gawin Hadden's son, Stanley B., graduated from the University of Illinois and then joined his father and grandfather in the grain business.²² This combination was very successful and the firm became prosperous and well-known in central Illinois.

Bear retained and enlarged the civic and political interests which had held his attention before the war. It had been his belief in abolition and the Republican party that had prompted him to join the Union army, and soon after he moved into Champaign County he revived this interest in political affairs. In 1871 he ran for county supervisor, representing Compromise Township. His efforts were rewarded with victory at the polls. He immediately reported his good fortune to Obenchain: "There was only (89) votes cast at our election, a great many kept at their work and did not turn out. . . . Hen Bear, or his old coon skin cap, I dont know which, got 78 votes for supervisor, only four votes given for the other candidate, a few didnt vote for either."²³

Evidently Bear and his "coon skin cap" were a great winning combination for he was elected five times to the board of county supervisors.²⁴ Then, after not holding office since his term of supervisor in 1879-80, he re-entered politics in 1885 and was elected justice of the peace for Compromise Township.²⁵ This was the last political office which Bear held. He had moved into Penfield that same year, and he probably devoted all of his energies to promoting business at the grain elevator. But this does not mean that he lost all interest in politics. He read the newspapers and kept up with national events to the extent of shifting his sympathies

in politics. Previously, in 1878, he had become a "Greenbacker" and supported prohibition also.²⁶ Following the general movement of most farmers (and Bear still held much farm land) away from the Greenback-Labor party, however, Bear shifted his support to the Democrats. In fact, he became so ardent in his support for this party that he journeyed to Washington, D. C., to see Grover Cleveland inaugurated.²⁷

Nevertheless, Bear's greatest delight was not politics—it was fishing. "No walk has been too long and the sun has never been too bright to hinder him from such sport."²⁸ Whenever a spare moment could be found, Bear was sure to head for the nearest fishing hole. Even while in the army he had put out his line whenever his transport docked for the night on the Mississippi River.²⁹ Likewise, when he returned, he found many excuses to combine fishing with other routine chores. Once he wrote: "I am going to the creek for wood. Will just take my lines along and bring back a mess of catfish, can do it sure."³⁰ No doubt this sport proved to be very restful and allowed him to just sit and think as he loved to do. He was a very quiet man unless somebody pressed him into conversation. Then, the stories and tales of his many adventures would gradually creep out, and he would talk for long periods to his listener.³¹

Bear and his wife celebrated their sixty-sixth wedding anniversary on November

17, 1925, but the gaiety was soon forgotten, for Mrs. Bear died less than a month later.³² She had led an exemplary life for eighty-two years and had been a constant aid and companion to her husband as he fought his way to success. Although greatly saddened by this heavy loss, Bear remained very active in the grain business until the early part of February, 1927. At that time he suffered a stroke of paralysis which caused his death on February 16. He had served the public in various positions of honor and trust, even acting as a school trustee for some time. The whole community mourned his death, and a local newspaper paid him this fine tribute: "Mr. Bear was a friend of all people and in his passing the community has lost a very honorable man."³³

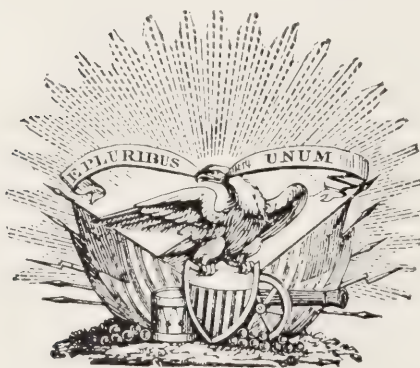
At the time of his death Bear was eighty-eight years old and had witnessed four major wars which involved the United States. In addition to his experiences in the Civil War he had also pioneered in the Illinois prairies somewhat like one of James Fenimore Cooper's characters of an earlier period. In fact, one might easily imagine Bear, wearing his "old coon skin cap," in *The Prairie* playing the role of Natty Bumppo, the old soldier, hunter, and trapper who—also in his eighties—waits tiredly, after a full life on the prairies, until he hears his Commander call the last muster roll and then snaps to attention with the clear cry of "Here!" and falls dead, mourned by all.

REFERENCES

CHAPTER X

1. Report Adj. Gen. State of Ill., VI, 269-271.
2. *Ibid.*, I, 160.
3. Records compiled by Asst. Prov. Marshal Gen. of Ill., in T. M. Eddy, *The Patriotism of Illinois* (Chicago, 1866), II, 689.
4. *Ibid.*, II, 687-690.
5. His mother, Maria, had died in 1863. Port. and Biog. Album Champaign Co., 694.
6. Stewart, ed., *Hist. Champaign Co.*, II, 733.
8. *Ibid.*, XIX, 378-379.
7. Deed Record, Champaign Co., Ill., XVIII, 112-114. Courthouse, Urbana. Location of this farm was: east half of southeast quarter of section 17, township 21, range 14 west, 2nd P. M.
9. Bear to Edward S. Obenchain, Compromise Twp., Ill., June 19, 1870. ALS Hadden Papers.

10. *Ibid.*, Dec. 26, 1870.
11. L. Jane Bear to Mary Obenchain, Rantoul, Ill., Aug. 24, 1869. ALS Hadden Papers.
12. Bear to Ed. S. Obenchain, Rantoul, Ill., Mar. 25, 1870. *Ibid.*
13. *Ibid.*, Compromise Twp., Ill., Mar. 3, 1871.
14. *Ibid.*, Dec. 26, 1870.
15. Interview with Mrs. Hadden, Urbana, Ill., May 19, 1952.
16. *Deed Record*, Champaign Co., Ill., LII, 500.
17. *Ibid.*, LXX, 566.
18. *Port. and Biog. Album Champaign Co.*, 694-695.
19. *Deed Record*, Champaign Co., Ill., CXXVI, 258.
20. *Ibid.*, CXII, 459; CXX, 407; CXXIV, 257; CXXIX, 293; and CXXXI, 571.
21. Stewart, ed., *Hist. Champaign Co.*, II, 733.
22. *Ibid.* Stanley B. Hadden married Sylvia Renner of Urbana. She now owns the letters of Henry C. Bear.
23. Bear to Ed. S. Obenchain, Rantoul, Ill., Apr. 9, 1871. ALS Hadden Papers.
24. *Supervisor's Order Book for Champaign Co., Ill.*, IV, 196, 249, 295; V, 57, 114. Courthouse, Urbana.
25. *Justice's and Constable's Bond Record for Champaign Co., Ill.*, Vol. A, p. 47. Courthouse, Urbana.
26. *Port. and Biog. Album of Champaign Co.*, 695.
27. Stewart, ed., *Hist. Champaign Co.*, II, 734. No mention is made whether it was the first or second inauguration of Cleveland. It probably was in 1893 when Bear was firmly established and could afford a long trip and vacation.
28. *Ibid.*
29. See entry for Dec. 21, 1862.
30. Bear to Ed. S. Obenchain, Compromise Twp., Ill., May 26, 1871. ALS Hadden Papers.
31. Interview with Mrs. Hadden, Urbana, Ill., May 19, 1952.
32. Lucetta Jane Bear died Dec. 14, 1925. Urbana (Ill.) *Daily Courier*, Dec. 15, 1925.
33. *Ibid.*, Feb. 16, 1927.



INDEX

- Abbeville, Miss, 5, 8.
 Allen, Elisha, 29.
 apples, cost of, 13, 35.
 Arkansas, 17.
 Arkansas Post, Ark., 28 ff.; battle of, 29 ff.; 37;
 diagram of by Bear, 30.
 Arkansas River, 29.

 Baker, N. M., 4 n.
 Balch, Alexander H., 8.
 barber's charge, 17.
 Baty, Sam, 39; killed, 41.
 Bear, David, 1, 2, 49.
 Bear, Ephraim, 1, 9.
 Bear, Eugenia C., 35, 45.
 Bear, Henry Clay, early life, 1-2; moves to Ill.,
 2; personal description, 2; photo of, 2; marries
 Lucetta Jane Likins, 2; enlists, 3; wounded
 at Vicksburg, 39; at Van Buren General Hos-
 pital, 40 ff.; at hospital in Keokuk, Iowa,
 44 ff.; poem about Grant, 46; discharged from
 the army, 44; moves to Champaign Co., Ill.,
 49; buys farm, 50; becomes a Democrat, 51;
 fishing, 51; county supervisor, 50; justice of
 the peace, 50; school trustee, 51; death of, 51.
 Bear & Obenchain, Henry Clay Bear and
 Edward S. Obenchain, in grain business, 50.
 Bear, Mrs. Henry Clay, 3; death of, 51 and 52 n.
 Bear, Jacob, 1, 12, 25.
 Bear, John M., 6, 8, 12, 16, 26, 40.
 Bear, Maria (Yoter), 1, 51 n.
 Bear, Mary, 35, 36.
 Bear, Mary M., 50.
 Bear, Minerva May, 2.
 Bear, Samuel, 12, 25.
 Bear, William, 3, 9, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 33,
 35, 41.
 Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Josiah, 13, 14 n.
 Black Bayou, 39.
 Blood, James H., 24.
 blue mass pills, 8.
 Bowen, Daniel, 7, 17, 36, 40, 41.
 Bowen, John S., 40.
 Bowman, Solomon S., 12, 35.
 Boyd, James P., 3, 41.
 Brown, William F., 6.
 brush tents (Confederate), 17.
 buck and gag (punishment), 18.
 buckshot, 24.
 bullets, explosive, 26, 27 n.
 Bumpo, Natty, 15.
 Burke, Patrick, 37.
 Butler, B. F., 32, 33.
 butter, cost of, 35, 36.

 Cairo, Ill., 3, 40.
 Camp Douglas (Chicago), 36, 38 n.
 camp follower, 6.
 Camp Macon, 3, 25.
 Carpenter, Nelle, foreword.
 Chickasaw Bluffs, fight at, 22 ff.
 Churchill, Thomas J., 29.

 Coldwater River, 7.
 Columbus, Ky., 16.
 Confederate tents, 17.
 Cooper, James Fenimore, 51.
 copperheads, 9, 45.
 crackers, 13, 18, 20, 25.
Crescent City, 16, 20 n.
 Curtis, Samuel Ryan, 46.

 Davis, Jefferson, 46, 47.
 Decatur, Ill., 3 ff.
 Deer Creek, 39.
 deserters, 37.
 dog tents, 11.
 Dunbar, Edward, 36.

 Eads, James, 24.
 eggs, cost of, 35.
 Emery, Charles F., 36.
 Estes House Hospital (Keokuk), 44 ff.; 48 n.
 explosive bullets, 26, 27 n.
 Eyman, Lewis J., 29.

 Fields, John, 18.
 Flint, Margaret A., foreword.
Forest Queen, 15.
 Forrest, Joseph, 40.
 Fort Hindman. See Arkansas Post.
 Foster, Jacob T., capt., 1st Wis. Artillery, 12,
 13, 14 n.
 Foundry Hospital (Memphis), 26.
 Frantz, David, 36, 37.
 Froman, Anderson, 3.

 Gardiner's explosive shell, 27 n.
 Germantown, Tenn., 11, 14 n.
 Grant, U. S., 3, 5, 11, 23, 32; poem about, 46.
 Grason, William, 26.
 gunboats, 18.

 Hadden, Gawin W., 50.
 Hadden, Stanley B., 50, 52 n.
 Hadden, Sylvia Renner, foreword; 4 n, 52 n.
 Hardy, Gustin F., 35, 41.
 Harrington, William R., 12.
 Haynes's Bluff, 41.
 Hickman, William, 7, 18, 36.
 Holly Springs, Miss., 5, 7, 16.
 Horton, William H., 13.

 Illinois Central R. R., 3.
 Illinois 8th Regt., 40, 43 n.
 Illinois 41st Regt., 3.

 Johnston, Joseph E., 42.
 Jones, George Alexander, 6, 17, 18, 23, 26.

 Keokuk, Iowa, 45 ff.

 La Crosse (Wis.) Artillery, 14 n.

- Lake Providence, 33.
 Landis, David B., 24.
 Likins, John, 2, 9.
 Likins, Joseph Ross, 8, 9, 25, 26, 36, 37.
 Likins, Lucetta Jane, 2. See also Bear, Mrs. Henry Clay.
 Likins, Lucinda M., 10 n.
 Likins, Ross. See Likins, Joseph Ross.
 Likins, Sarah (Cole), 2.
 Lincoln, Abraham, 2, 18, 29, 33; assassination of, 47.
 Lockett, S. H., 27 n.
 Lyman, Theodore, 27 n.
- McAarty, Joy, foreword, 31 n.
 McClernand, John A., 28 ff.
 McKinney & Rodgers, 12, 14 n.
 Macon Co., Ill., 2, 3.
 meals, on steamer, 17, 19.
 Memphis, Tenn., 3, 5, 7, 11; fires at, 13.
 mess, number in a, 12.
Mill Boy, 16, 20 n.
 Miller, Daniel, 7, 35, 41.
 Miller, Mrs. Daniel, Sr., letter to, 41-42.
 Miller, Joseph, 26, 27 n.
 Milliken's Bend, La., 15 ff.; 32 ff.
 Mississippi River, operations on, 15 ff.
 Missouri 6th Regt., 23, 24, 26.
 Missouri 8th Regt., 13, 23, 24, 26.
 Morgan, George W., 11.
 morphine, 7.
 Morris, William, 8.
 Mount Rock, Penn., 1.
- Napoleon, Ark., burned, 19, 29.
 Negroes, 6; as a servant, 9; 18, 32, 46.
- Oakley, Ill., 1, 37, 44, 49.
 Obenchain, Edward S., 50.
 Ohio 58th Regt., 24.
 onions, 13, 16.
- Parrott cannon, 11, 17, 23, 35.
 Peck, Jacob, 12.
 Peck, John, 17, 18, 29.
 Penfield, Ill., 49, 50.
 physicians, 5, 8, 17, 26, 40.
 Pigeon Roost, 7.
 Plainfield, Penn., 2.
Planet, 11, 13, 20, 21 n.
 potatoes, cost of, 35, 36.
 Price, Sterling, 6.
 Purdew, John B., 6.
- railroad, method of destroying, 19.
 Reason, William J., 18.
 rice, 20.
 Richart, Mrs. Frank E., foreword.
- Ritter, John Milton, 12.
 Rock, Joseph H., 40.
 Rogers, John W., 5.
 Rundle, Charles W., 9, 24.
- sharpshooters (Confederate), 24.
 Shellabarger, Joseph L., 35.
 Sherman, W. T., 5, 11, 15.
 Sibley tents, 11, 14 n.
 Sick and Wounded Soldiers' Aid Society of Decatur, The, 3.
 smallpox, 7, 13, 48 n.
 smallpox vaccination, 7.
 Smith, Andrew J., 11.
 Smith, Morgan L., 11; wounded, 24.
 Stapp, David W., 8.
 steamboats, wood for, 17.
 Steele's Bayou, 39.
 Steele, Frederick, 11, 29.
 Stine, James, 17.
 sutler, 19.
 sweet potatoes, 6, 12.
- Tallahatchie River, 5 ff.
 Taylor, John S., 29.
 Temple, Wayne C., 1.
 tents, 11, 14 n, 17.
 Thompson, David L., 14 n.
Tigress, 3; sunk, 40.
 Tupper, Ansel, 3.
 Tupper, Nathan W., 3, 5, 6, 11, 26, 39.
 typhoid fever, 40.
- Union fleet, on upper Mississippi, 19.
 University of Illinois, 50.
- vaccination, 7.
 Van Buren General Hospital, 40, 44.
 Vicksburg, campaign of, 11 ff.; canal at, 32 ff.; diagram of canal at, 34; running the batteries at, 39 ff.; railroad to, 15, 19, 21 n.
 Vicksburg and Shreveport R. R., 15; torn up, 19; 21 n.
- Walker, John R., 20 n.
 Walker, Peter, 29.
 whisky, 7, 8, 17.
 White River, 29.
 Williams, Thomas, 32.
 Wilson, George, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13.
 Wisconsin First Artillery, 12, 13, 14 n.
 Wolf River, raid on, 13.
 wood, for fuel, 17.
- Yazoo Pass, 33.
 Yazoo River, 15 ff., 22 ff.
 Young's plantation, 33.
 Young's Point, 33.





1/18/2019

442682 5 9



00

HF GROUP - IN

